

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society

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Old Deer Kirkyard: ANESFHS Annual Graveyard Outing, Saturday 1st June 2019

Photograph by Gavin Bell (no. 4085)

Membership Details

New members pay the annual rate, and their subscription runs for exactly one year from the date on which they join. Further details are available on our **website**. Membership of the Society entitles you to receive the quarterly Journal. There is a discount of £3.00 for e-members who opt to download the Journal digitally instead of receiving printed copies.

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

The 2019 subscription rates are (**deduct £3** if opting for digital copies of the Journal):

Ordinary membership: £21.00

Family membership: £27.00

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

ANESFHS website and Members' Forum

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

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

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

General Data Protection Regulations, 2018

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

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

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

Issue 151, May 2019

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Society Reports, News and Information

Editorial

The ANESFHS website has featured a Members' Forum for a while now, but it sees less traffic than might have been expected these days when "everything's online" (or is it?). Log into the website using your membership number, and you'll find extras that aren't available to non-members. Members' Forum is one such, containing these categories:

DNA Forum, Genealogy Talk, Suggestion Box, Surname Interests, Visiting Aberdeen, "Far and Away" (for research in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the USA and "Rest of the World") – and Brick Walls.

These are where you can post questions and/or help other enquirers. Members who do use the Forum usually receive responses from others who are keen to help wherever possible. To maximise your chances of a response, try to include detail when you can. It's always useful to state the avenues you've already tried, even if you found nothing there. That'll save people from replying with suggestions that don't help you.

The Journal reaches a much wider audience, namely our entire worldwide membership. Why not use the Journal Queries service? It may take a month or two between sending in your Query and seeing it published – but your chances of useful replies will be greatly enhanced by reaching out to the whole Society. Queries used to be many folk's favourite when every Journal featured double-figure numbers of them. Surely you've a brick wall that we can help you to smash down / circumnavigate / tunnel under / vault over?

This Journal issue is unusually low on photographs and other images. Why? Because hardly anyone has been sending any in! As volunteers, we have limited time to go hunting for good Journal material, and we rely mainly on members submitting articles, feedback, photographs, queries, discoveries, reports, news snippets and anything else of interest. In turn, your efforts will usually be rewarded by positive responses from other members.

We look forward to hearing from you on any topic with North-East Scottish family-history relevance. See inside back cover of each Journal for the following issue's copy deadline.

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Ivor Normand

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Members' Meetings

Elma McMenemy, "Walking in Their Ancestors' Footsteps"

16th February 2019

Elma (member no. 14881) began her talk with a short insight into her own family history. Her maternal grandmother had told her family she was from the Highlands, was born on a troop ship off Gibraltar and her father was the Regimental Sergeant-Major. The truth was revealed by her birth certificate, found on "Scotland's People": Blanchy Gordon had been born in Fisherrow, Musselburgh, and her father "signed" the register with his mark. His illiteracy possibly accounted for the bizarre spelling of Blanche with a y.

Elma was profoundly influenced by her father's sister, who had done ancestral research the hard way in the 1960s and 1970s. Elma had produced calligraphic family trees for her, which constantly required updating as more information was discovered. Although Elma

did not enjoy history, she was fascinated by her aunt's notes of industrial developments which had affected family members – and she retains this interest in social history.

Elma had worked for Aberdeen Tourist Board and qualified as a Blue Badge Scottish Tourist Guide. Later, as a self-employed tourism consultant and guide, and influenced by Homecoming 2009, she qualified in Ancestral Tourism. Her car can go off-road when necessary to take visitors to what is left of their ancestral home, which may only be a pile of stones in the corner of a farmer's field. The car is also fully insured for driver guiding / Hire and Reward. Elma sounded a note of warning for members and volunteers who take people out to visit their ancestral places, as, even if no payment is involved, any gift or contributions for fuel or to the Society may negate insurance cover – an important consideration when guiding or driving litigation-conscious visitors of any nationality.

International conference-goers visiting Aberdeen had given Elma her first ancestral guiding experience when they asked to include Longside en route to Banff because one of them was descended from Keiths in Longside. Finding the village shop, its staff and customers a great source of information, and using her Ordnance Survey map, Elma was able to pinpoint and drive to the relevant farm. Nowadays, she is always much better prepared but is of course always reliant on the information her clients provide. If they book through an agent, that may be sparse. Even if they have paid a considerable amount for genealogical research, it may not be up to professional standards. A recent visitor had been told by her "genealogist" in the USA that she would be able to obtain a copy of her ancestor's birth certificate from "the parish church in Montrose". Said ancestor had been born not only prior to statutory registration beginning in 1855 but also, according to "Scotland's People", in a different parish, namely Arbroath.

Preparation includes a reconnoitre of the relevant places and the use of a wide range of resources: Victorian and modern OS maps, Google and Google Maps, books including *The Castles of the Clans* – and the "amazing" resources of ANESFHS. Recces are not always straightforward. One, for a high-level visit organised by one of the *Who Do You Think You Are?* researchers, who also runs a company providing the full *WDYTIA?* experience for "ordinary" (but wealthy) people, required accessing farmland in the Cabrach. There, a supportive sheep-farmer advised which was the relevant ruin and pointed out a grass track across his grazing to access it. On the day itself, the visitors were not appropriately shod to walk to the ruin, so Elma was glad she had taken close-up photographs on her recce.

Elma is often "sucked in" to her visitors' family history and sees the raw emotion many ancestral visitors feel when they walk in their ancestors' footsteps. She first experienced this with a sophisticated couple from Colorado. Driving towards the Drumblade area they were to visit, and long before any Drumblade signs were visible, her visitor looked across the countryside and suddenly said "we're close, aren't we? I can feel it!" His ancestor had been a stonemason working onshore preparing the granite blocks for the foundations of the Bell Rock lighthouse. He had attended technical-drawing evening classes at the work camp provided to keep the men sober. He later became an architect in the USA.

Another family, whose ancestor had been a cooper, visited Speyside Cooperage with Elma to discover more about this skilled trade. With the help of ANESFHS's MI booklet for King Edward kirkyard, a relevant gravestone was found. They carefully removed the moss and could read the inscription before replacing the moss. Perhaps she should not have encouraged this – but Elma always ensures her visitors are extremely careful if

revealing an inscription, and feels she cannot reasonably deny the descendants of those buried there the opportunity to see their forebears' inscriptions. Later, the family was drawn to a particular corner of Cullen kirkyard where the cooper was known to have been buried. There in the wall was a stone carved to show cooper's tools, although the name was eroded. However, some (plain) flour brushed onto the stone revealed a C, followed by an R – almost certainly their Craib ancestor.

One family of Swedish-speaking Finns had traced an ancestor who had taken a job with a Russian physician visiting the house in King Street where she was in service. She returned with him to be nanny to his children but left Russia for Finland with the family at the time of the Revolution in 1917. With Elma, the family visited ancestral farms in the Mearns and around Cruden Bay, where an ancestor had been an innkeeper and postmaster at Auchiries. His son had been killed falling from a mail coach, apparently delivering mail to Balmoral – and so the mail coach and information at Grampian Transport Museum figured in Elma's research and also in the family's visits.

A lady from Alberta, Canada, visited in 2017 and provided a list of places her blacksmith ancestor had worked and lived in. Elma discovered many of these were adjacent to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route construction work – but, with considerable help from Aberdeen Roads Ltd management, she managed to show her visitor all locations, albeit some from a distance.

Another lady, from Tasmania, has visited every year since 2011 and is returning again in September. A teacher-librarian, she is well known at Aberdeen City Library, the Archives and ANESFHS. Her research is meticulous and her ancestral story almost a fairytale. Her ancestor went to Tasmania to join a brother who had been transported for housebreaking but had earned his pardon. Although she knew he was from Scotland, her family research hit a brick wall until she found his death record in the recently digitised *Melbourne Argus*. This mentioned his ancestor, Alexander Ross, poet and schoolmaster at Loch Lee, up Glen Esk in Angus – and so her research took off. Researching a minor celebrity proved relatively easy. In addition to being a schoolmaster, he also became Session Clerk, and Elma was able to tell her that the Old Parish Register images she saw on "Scotland's People" would be in her 6 x great-grandfather's own handwriting. He was a man before his time, adding to his records to make them as complete as possible "for the sake of generations to come". It was, however, his wife who provided the "fairytale pedigree": she was descended from the Duguids of Auchenhove, themselves descended from many other landowning and noble families, and even royalty. When the relevant Duguid link was verified by professional genealogists, this rather shy, unassuming Tasmanian lady was almost embarrassed to discover she is, as much as anyone can be certain, genuinely descended from Robert the Bruce. She and Elma are now more like friends than guide and client, and together regularly visit Loch Lee and its ruined church and kirkyard, which seem to "speak" to the lady and pull her to them. With links to the Irvines, Gordons, Forbeses, Leslies, Ogilvies and more, almost every visit now has an ancestral connection.

Elma (www.elma.uk.com) feels really privileged to share visitors' stories and history, show them their own ancestral homelands and feel their emotion. I thank her for giving me a comprehensive précis of her talk to augment this report. Her books are available via the Society (see our website): *Aberdeen in 100 Dates* (£7.99, 180g, code LA021) and *Bloody Scottish History: Aberdeen* (£9.99, 240g, LA031).

John Hitchon, “The Seven Ages of Man: a One-Name Study”

16th March 2019

John, a retired chartered electrical engineer, has had an interest in family-history research since schooldays. Born and raised in Lancashire, he has latterly lived in Wester Ross and Fife. A member of the Guild of One-Name Studies, he provided a full description, with many slides, of his one-name study on his surname.

Answering “why carry out such research?”, John quoted Kipling’s “Elephant” poem:

I will remember what I was ...
I will go out to my own kind ...
I will revisit my lost love and playmates ...

He began his research in 1957 on finding the Family Bible in his grandmother’s attic. It contained a simple family tree from Peter Hitchen (*sic*) in 1795. Intrigued by the name variation, John delved into his known family – father, grandfather, great-grandfather. By talking to his grandmother, he learned a little about Peter (d. 1827), whose gravestone names his wife and son. John has since built up a family tree from 1620 to today.

Since his first indexed and handwritten notebook, with all the Hitchons he could then find, he now has ten notebooks, with a year at the top of each page, and all the records for that year. His records are now also computerised, and he has correspondence with Hitchons all over the world. The BBC’s *Family History* programme presented by Gordon Honeycomb in 1979 was very helpful in suggesting lines of inquiry in those early years of his research. Through typewriter, dot-matrix printer and the early BBC computers, he progressed to the establishment of the Hitchon family newsletter, and hopes to set up a website soon. His numerous files include marriages, deaths, military history and monumental inscriptions, which often give many other family names and dates.

The start of English and Welsh civil registration in 1837 provided fuller access to family information. John analysed the 1881 census for distribution of the Hitchon name. Using telephone directories over the past decades, he analysed the name’s distribution and produced a map showing a concentration in Lancashire, with a few in Birmingham and the Midlands. As a result of these findings, in 1983 he sent out a questionnaire with his first newsletter, seeking aunts and uncles as well as immediate family. From the 30 family trees that resulted, he produced five large trees of mostly Lancashire Hitchons.

Somerset House records were unhelpful, in the early days of his research, for a one-name study, but nowadays the General Register Office records are indexed and, since 1911, include the mothers’ surnames. He has researched boys with the forename Hitchon, as this can indicate a mother’s maiden surname. Newspapers and periodicals may have articles on individuals with the name, and even birth certificates can give interesting social history details, such as the issue of a “baby helmet” to a baby born in wartime. He warned us against assuming that a baptism record refers to an infant, as many children were only baptised when confirmation was sought, and several siblings could be baptised at once. Our speaker also found many variations on the name Hitchon, some with unexpected sources, for example Hitchough, which he found in the USA, but has Hungarian roots.

Using the “Seven Ages of Man” speech in Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*, John described records that can be found for all stages of life from infancy to death, including schoolboy, lover, soldier, justice and “second childishness”. After birth records, school and further-

or higher-education institutions provide records of attendance, classes taken, graduation and career choice. John mentioned the Directory of Scientists; and even a voluntary organisation such as the British Red Cross Society gives certificates for courses passed.

Progressing to the “lover”, family news records, lists of wedding gifts received, and the compliments slip that accompanied wedding-cake gifts all give details of the event and the people involved. Electoral registers used to be a source, but not nowadays.

The “soldier” can be well documented, with service records and war graves. The National Archives at Kew has reports of actions and events in wartime, usually written by fellow soldiers; and the War Graves Commission has an extensive database.

For the “justice”, civil and criminal records provide much information. John found the cancellation of a nurse’s licence for unprofessional conduct, and a fishing misdemeanour resulting in a fine. The 1841 census named all prisoners in the county gaol at the time. A Land Tax Assessment for 1831 filled in detail on land ownership; and another from 1782 gives names of fields owned by the individual. The US Naturalisation Certificate gives even the colour of the applicant’s eyes and some medical information. If your ancestor has been a Member of Parliament, general-election results will be of interest.

Employment and retirement records include trade directories and adverts. John found information on his 2g-grandfather’s invention in 1904–5 of change-speed gears, initially designed for the cotton machinery of the Lancashire industry, but translated to motor cars. A dentist ancestor had advertised his professional skills in the local newspaper.

Death, of course, provides registration and testamentary documentation, and monumental inscriptions. Our speaker turned up a post-mortem investigation from 1620, and a printed index of wills for the Padiham district where his ancestors lived.

John finished by asking what Shakespeare missed! He recommended using DNA for more information, and setting up a website for your family name. He also suggested revisiting data sites which regularly update, and rechecking Google Search.

To contact the Guild of One-Name Studies (www.one-name.org): guild@one-name.org, or at Box G, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA (tel. 0800 011 2182). In Australia, telephone 1800 305 184; in Canada and the USA, 1-800-647-4100.

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Moray/Banff Group Report

Our first meeting of 2019 was the ever-popular “Bring along a brick wall”. There are always several contenders but, as always, results were mixed. It is always a good learning experience, though, as suggestions for further research are many and varied.

“Family Mementos” in February produced a fascinating range of documents, books and objects, all of great importance to the families concerned.

In March, we trawled through a wide selection of websites for our “Ancestors Abroad” meeting, from passenger lists to censuses of the USA, from more general resources such as newspapers to very specific resources such as convict transportations.

Last year, our Local Heritage Officer, Scott Reid, introduced us to the many specialised resources that can be ordered from the Moray Archives. For our April meeting this year,

he gave us an excellent introduction to the resources available at the Heritage Centre itself, and the talk was followed by a guided tour.

All the meetings have been well attended, with plenty of lively audience participation! In May (before this Journal arrives), Mary Byatt will talk on “The closes of Elgin”; and in June it’s “Making the most of the censuses”, after which we have our summer break until September. We meet on the first Saturday of the month, and would love to see you there.

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Glasgow Group Report

Ken Nisbet, “Local and national newspapers for family-history research”

16th February 2019

We welcomed back Ken Nisbet with this updated version of his popular talk. Detailed reports on his original version, including weblinks, appeared in Journal 122 (Feb 2012, pp. 5–8; Glasgow) and Journal 132 (Aug 2014, pp. 7–9; Aberdeen), with a member’s update on Canadian newspapers in Journal 133, p. 18. Journal 130 (Feb 2014, pp. 17–18) also had a report on ANESFHS’s subscription to the British Newspaper Archive, whose many holdings are continually being expanded. If you have joined the Society more recently, all our Journals are in the members-only section of our website.

More and more old newspapers keep appearing online. The BNA began in 2008 and had 30 million pages’ worth as at January 2019 (pay per view). Other sources are FindMyPast and Ancestry (both by subscription), www.thegenealogist.co.uk, newspapers’ websites and the National Library of Scotland. Aberdeen Central Library still has some old newspapers that aren’t online. Local libraries *may* have online indexes. Local councils’ websites can be excellent – particularly LIBINDEX for Moray and Banffshire (not Nairnshire).

Ironically, even Ken’s mother (85) no longer takes the *P&J* (now owned by DC Thomson of Dundee). Personal notices have changed a lot since the 19th century, and used to be far more detailed. Marriage notices could give the occupations of the groom and of both parties’ fathers, and details of the minister – though often no mention of mothers. There can be a very extended marriage report, including a list of all the presents and their givers.

Divorce records under 100 years old are no longer accessible, leaving newspapers as the only source of juicy or any other details. Cases of bigamy were reported with great glee, and breach-of-promise cases brought by ex-fiancées were similarly covered in detail.

For deaths and funerals, old newspapers are patchier: many were weekly or bi-weekly, so there may only be a date of death, and no funeral notice. Evening newspapers were cheaper, so very many more deaths might be found there. Over time, the evening paper often *became* the local paper. Deceased Online now has some crematorium records. “In Memoriam” notices became especially popular from the 1914–18 War and could be repeated year after year. Accidental-death reports were another newspaper staple.

Obituary sites include www.iannounce.co.uk (www.legacy.com/uk), covering 276 local UK newspapers. Some FHSs have published death notices, including Fife, Highland and Moray & Nairn. For recent deaths, the *P&J* goes back four years but charges a fee. There are military journals and newspapers; and try www.forces-war-records.co.uk. Some sites charge subscription or pay-as-you-go fees, while others are free to search.

Newspapers reported a lot on schools and teachers: school attendances, prizewinners, appointments of teachers, “Miss” getting married (and having to leave), Sunday School picnics, gala-day programmes and events, and much else. If a prizewinner’s bookplate is in an old book you have, it could have merited a mention in a local paper.

Crime and punishment were a mainstay. There are often detailed reports on High Court cases (including transportation), theft, drunk-and-disorderly and other misdemeanours.

Farming also features a lot: dispenishing sales, farm sales (and reasons why), ploughing matches and so on. House sales and lettings may also give colour to your family tree. Some firms of solicitors appearing in old advertisements are still in existence and might have farm records or have deposited them in archives.

Emigration and shipping reports gave names of ships and of shipping agents (some of which later evolved into travel agents), and may provide a lot of pointers for further research. There were also reports on architects, masons and tradesmen being awarded building contracts and seeking workers.

The *London*, *Edinburgh* and *Dublin Gazettes*, all freely available online, can be good for civil-service appointments, including Post Office and postmen, temporary police, census enumerators and the TSB. They are also good for bankruptcies and any official notices.

Special-interest websites abound, and may contain information on your ancestors. For example, gdl.cdli.strath.ac.uk has the Scottish Mountaineering Club journals (1890–1901).

Australia has the wonderful Trove website. New Zealand has PapersPast: 61 newspapers (1839–1945). There are the *Straits Times* and *Singapore Times*, but nothing for South Africa or British India. Colonial and UK newspapers often printed “Please copy” in personal notices, so papers elsewhere would print the same information for families back home or overseas. Sometimes this is the only way to find out about certain family events. Dundee newspapers were especially good at copying from elsewhere in Scotland.

When you find images online that you want to keep, how do you record your downloads? Ken takes a screen-grab and pastes the image into a Word document (always recording the source). Other suggestions included giving each PDF file a new name meaningful to you, to replace the official strings of letters and numbers. A “snipping tool” is good for taking grabs of screens or selecting part of a screen that has the information you want.

At our next meeting, on 5th October, our speaker is the highly entertaining Chris Paton, on “Church records”. Everyone is always welcome to our meetings, and we’re pleased to see a range of regular attendees, new members and non-members coming along.

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Edinburgh Group Report

Members’ Day: Recording, arranging, storing and preserving

13th April 2019

We held a lively and informative workshop on ways of “Recording, arranging, storing and preserving your family-history information and materials”. On storage and preservation of many different types of object, there were handouts from *Ours for Keeps?* (Museums and Galleries Commission, 1998), chapter 7, “Caring for family treasures”. These had been

left by a previous speaker, Elspeth Reid of Central Region Archives (reports: Journal 119, May 2011, pp. 9–11; also issue 76, Aug 2000, pp. 5–7; see Members' area of website).

Sally Low (no. 1441) has rejoined ANESFHS after many years away, and she started us off with ways of organising her family tree that have or haven't worked. She recommends making yourself a Facebook profile to access "The Organized Genealogist" (also available via YouTube). Allot yourself chunks of time so that your family history gets a look-in among all the other things you're busy with. A kitchen egg-timer can help. And reward yourself after each mini-completion if it helps with motivation.

There are Facebook groups and other online interest groups for absolutely any aspect of family history: geographical, DNA, "stuff" or whatever. To protect your computer data, it's vital to back up regularly on to an external hard drive (or ideally two) and keep it/them in fireproof safe places. Sally has hers in a smart plastic case with handle (available from interior stores) that contains her family-history "grab-bag" essentials in case of fire.

Start consolidating your notebooks – and remember to note your failed research as well as your successes, so that you don't inadvertently waste time repeating old errors. After a busy day of research, write up (or type up) your findings while they're fresh in your mind. Scan documents and photos into your computer – and then back up. Our group had quite a debate about the use and value of retaining paper records, or digitising everything, or both.

On files and archival storage, an archivist had said "we can't recommend; we can only tell you what we use". The main considerations are acid-free sleeves/envelopes, protection from light or physical damage, and keeping things flat.

We moved on to view and discuss various members' historical and current methods of organising their data. Most folk had started with a system of "one per grandparent" for recording and storing (sheets, folders, drawers, boxes etc.) but had often outgrown their system as their research progressed. Some folk prefer the condensed top-down view in an "Outline Descendant Chart" from FH software packages, while others do best with the big roll of wallpaper showing drop-line trees for several generations, with highlighted boxes for direct ancestors and/or cross-references off to other trees and materials/sources.

Mobile phones are now very useful for photographing documents and expanding the size to view miniature writing. DropBox or other "cloud" storage can be a safe alternative for your computer data. But do keep a list of all your various family-history passwords where your family can find it! Years of research, all locked away inaccessibly because nobody knew your passwords, will defeat the purpose for anyone else who may be interested.

One of our regulars couldn't attend but had written a letter which was read out: "I could do with tidying up; I have found that different systems are required at different stages in the F.T. quest. Now, at the serious end of 'leaving it for the family', I realise the only way they will access and enjoy it is if it is all online or, even better, an e-book. Although the various bits of F.T. outlines will still be needed to see how and who is related to whom, they actually prefer me to write up my fund of stories about all the 'players' on the trees. So, I have started that process – and it works! The words just flow (but have to be edited too), and the tricky part is deciding whose, how and where photos should be inserted. Without the text, the photos mean nothing to anyone but myself."

Sally showed her own photobook (done via Photobox): easy to do, but quite expensive. Advice: wait for a discount offer. We also discussed drawing a timeline for each person in

your family tree: dates, short descriptions, and references to various sources to build up a picture of their life. Adding historical events (e.g. which monarch was on the throne) or notable technological advances and other local events (e.g. “electric lighting first came to the village”) can also be helpful. One member showed his wallpaper-roll tree of ancestors for whom he types up full B/M/D certificate transcriptions and reference details. There was also excitement about John Brownlee’s article in Journal 150 (Feb 2019, pp. 41–44) and its photographs of his wife’s embroidered family-history curtains.

If you’re wondering where to start on computerisation and putting any of your research into book form, you could try local library courses – as well as those special-interest Facebook groups and YouTube tutorials.

Our Edinburgh Group celebrates 10 years at our next meeting, on 14th September. The speaker will be “genetic genealogist” Michelle Leonard, on “Using DNA to solve family-tree mysteries”. Everyone is always welcome, and we’re pleased to see a range of regular attendees, new members and non-members coming along.

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Midlands Group

The Midlands Group of ANESFHS has met for over 30 years to share experiences and sources of information. We have found new sources of information, heard many good stories and identified distant cousins within our group. Ron Herd (no. 32) has organised the group and taken the chair, but he is standing down after about 30 years’ service, for which we express our warm appreciation.

The group will meet next from 2pm until 4pm on Saturday 12th October 2019 at our usual venue near Dorridge Station – contact midlands@anesfhs.org.uk for further details. Please e-mail this address (with your contact details) if you are planning to come, or if you cannot come this time and hope to attend on future occasions. This is important, as we need to decide at this meeting whether to continue and, if appropriate, to elect a new chairperson.

midlands@anesfhs.org.uk

David L Walker

No. 1228

—oOo—

ANESFHS Members’ Meetings: Brisbane, Melbourne, ... ??

Just as this Journal went to press, moves were afoot to convene initial get-togethers of interested ANESFHS members in Brisbane and in Melbourne. The idea got going when a member who attends our Edinburgh and Glasgow Groups was heading home to visit her folks in Brisbane and wondered if a local-area group already existed.

Many of us are members of other FHSs as well as this one. Perhaps you’ve heeded Gay Murton’s sage advice (see p. 17) and joined your local FHS in order to use their research facilities, meet like-minded people and share hints and tips. Some of you further-flung folk may even already know fellow ANESFHS members who are also in your local FHS. Or maybe you don’t, but you’d love to know who else is within reach of where you live?

Our Glasgow and Edinburgh Group meetings attract attendances usually in the 20s or 30s, representing maybe 12–15% of those to whom we send invitation/reminder e-Newsletters in the “local” catchment areas across central and southern Scotland. Of course, we’re also delighted when members turn up from anywhere across the globe!

If the Brisbane “area” is reckoned to stretch from the Gold Coast to the Sunshine Coast and inland to Toowoomba, this area contained 33 current ANESFHS members as at Easter 2019 – all but one of them with e-mail addresses. An initial e-mail to gauge interest, sent “bcc” to protect privacy, yielded 14 responses (43%; all positive) in the first 48 hours. A meeting looks likely to go ahead; and we look forward to reading about it in the next issue.

One of those respondents has newly moved to Melbourne and is similarly keen to meet up with fellow Society members there. As at Easter 2019, the state of Victoria had 57 current members, of whom 40 live within 80 km of central Melbourne. A bit of inter-city rivalry to see who can draw more members and have a better time?!

I have visited those cities and others this century, and often wondered what interest there might be in North-East Scottish-descended folk across the world meeting up in the modern day. Other candidate “local” areas might be Sydney (a few dozen members), Auckland (20; plus 10 across Waikato/Tauranga) or Toronto (about 40 within reach). Then there’s always London (England) and the wider South-East ...

journal@anesfhs.org.uk

Ivor Normand

No. 4161

—oOo—

The 1911 Census of Aberdeen and Shire

Since the publication in 2012 of the 1911 census, many volunteers have been beavering away in the background to bring Society members an easily accessible, readable version to help with their research. This is painstaking work which required our own researcher to access the original material before handing it on to our many home-based volunteers. They have spent hours with magnifying glass in hand, deciphering the handwritten material (some of it almost unreadable) and trying to make sense of names and places.

The next step in the process was to produce typed versions, which have been checked as much as possible. These are now filed in bright yellow folders in the Shop area at our Research Centre in King Street – so do come and make use of them.

The work is ongoing because we still need more volunteers to help complete this work before the 1921 census is released in January 2022. So, if you would like to help, please get in touch with either of us at the addresses below.

Aberdeen City was divided into four major registration districts – St Machar, St Nicholas, Woodside and Old Machar – and within these there were anything between 60 and 100 separate enumeration districts. So far, three of these major registration districts are complete, with only parts of St Nicholas remaining to be deciphered. Rhona Robertson has undertaken the co-ordination of Aberdeen city material.

Aberdeenshire had over 50 separate town or village registration districts, and again many of these were divided into subsections, especially larger towns like Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Inverurie. Helen Dewar is managing the co-ordination of Aberdeenshire districts, and very good progress has been made, with many individual locations completed.

We are not claiming that our transcripts are infallible. Indeed, there are still names, places and other handwriting which none of us could decipher. We’d love it if you could fill in any blanks, correct any errors or help to compile an overall index from the district indexes.

We have often been asked why we have not put this information on to a database which could be interrogated electronically. Indeed, this would be ideal – but the limitations of

the computer system and of our IT expertise have so far kept this beyond us. However, there is always hope that the future may produce a volunteer who is able to take this on. Meanwhile, at least we have a readable copy of most of the census for Aberdeen and shire, which gives researchers much valuable information. Come to King Street and see for yourselves; or please get in touch if you would like to help. Our contact e-mails are:

rhona.robertson@anesfhs.org.uk

Rhona Robertson No. 17741

helen.dewar@anesfhs.org.uk

Helen Dewar No. 20890

—oOo—

Events in 2019

ANESFHS will have a stall at these events coming up in the rest of this year:

18–19 May (9am–4:30pm), Broomhill Farm, Lyne of Skene: Country Fair

15 June (10am–4:30pm), Carnegie Library, Ayr: History Fair (S Ayrshire Library Service)

22 June (10am–4:30pm), Knavesmire Stadium, Race Course, York: Family History Show

3 August (10am–4:30pm), The Green, Aboyne: Highland Games

4 August (10am–5pm), Victoria Halls, Ballater: Book Fair

10 August (10am–2:30pm), Town Centre, Fraserburgh: “Super Saturday” Event, Festival of the Sea (Fraserburgh Development Trust)

7th September (TBC), Town House (and various venues), Aberdeen: Doors Open Day

5th October (9:45am–4:30pm), Concert Hall, Motherwell: Local and Family-History Show (Lanarkshire FHS)

27th October (10am–4:30pm), Hilton Treetops Hotel, Springfield Rd, Aberdeen: Book Fair

Help isn’t required with the bookstall at any of these events; but, as always, we’d love to see you there anyway.

jean.shirer@anesfhs.org.uk

Jean Shirer

No. 14

—oOo—

Legacy to the Society: William P. Brown

The Society was honoured and grateful to receive a bequest from Dr William Peddie Brown (no. 12384), who died in March 2017 aged 82. A statement from his family said: “Educated at Gordon’s College and Aberdeen University, he became a university lecturer in psychology, mainly in Aberdeen and Belfast. In his retirement in Aberdeen, he spent some time researching the history of both sides of his family, and appreciated the advice he got from ANESFHS.”

As reported in the *P&J* and elsewhere, Dr Brown left £10,000 to our Society and the same amount each to the University of Aberdeen Development Trust, to four organisations helping people in the North-East with various disabilities, and to two other associations and societies of which he was a member.

ANESFHS chairman, Stuart Petrie, said the funds will be used towards helping people to tell “extraordinary stories about ordinary people. We have everything at our fingertips. People can sit and look at original documents and all the sources. While we’ve done the cosmetic refurbishment, we’re using computer servers that are about 20 years old. We started with one PC, and that grew to about 30. We’ll use this donation to buy new ones.”

ANESFHS Annual General Meeting, 16th March 2019: Minutes

The Chairman, Stuart Petrie, welcomed members and asked for Approval of the Minutes of March 2018. Barbara Lamb proposed acceptance; seconded by Jean Shirer. Apologies were noted from Bill Rodger, Doreen Florence, Bill Diack, Susan Freer and Pat Black.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported a busy year, with refurbishment of 158/160 being the main item. The Centre is now much lighter and brighter. More to be done this year is the update of our IT and accounting systems; renewal of lighting in the library; and the office in 164. A decline in membership is reported by all societies – due no doubt to the increased use of the Internet by researchers. Membership stands at around 3,000. The problem is always how to attract new members and to keep them. To that end, our website has been updated, and the introduction of a Members' Forum will help us keep in touch with members – Centre staff being able to log on to queries and to help. He reported that this year the Treasurer, Maria Cameron, was standing down after a lengthy period of office, and congratulated her on a job very well done. (Applause)

Treasurer's Report: Maria Cameron presented the Accounts, which showed a net surplus of £3,359. She recorded the help she had had from Andy Home in the preparation of the accounts, and gave thanks to our Auditors, Williamson & Dunn, for their prompt audit in time for this AGM. Gift Aid had almost doubled during 2018, mainly due to donations from the Granite Roots Appeal. A dispute with Scottish Gas had resulted in a small amount of compensation to us. Expenditure had been largely on refurbishment of 158/160. Postage and printing costs continued to rise, while the sale of publications was appreciably down. Sundry expenses include costs associated with research (Broad Street Project), security (alarm system), cleaning and equipment maintenance. She intimated a rise in the subscription rate starting in 2020 – £25 for ordinary and £30 for family membership. E-mail membership would stay the same at £18 (ordinary) and £24 (family).

Secretary's Report: Ronald Leith reported a total of 420 new members for 2018. This contrasted with the last few years, where the numbers were closer to 300; the level was now back to that of 2014. Despite the increase, we had lost around 500 members, although this was continually fluctuating due to the revised renewal date occasioned by our new system of members renewing exactly one year after they had joined. He drew attention to the "job description" drawn up by the Treasurer, where the various tasks of the Treasurer were itemised. Some of these tasks were already being done by members, and others were to be encouraged to think about ways in which they could help, however small, to complete a Treasury Team. Ronald also drew attention to the Secretary's function, which at one time was very busy, especially at renewal times, when hundreds of letters would have to be processed. This was now considerably reduced due to electronic payments. E-mail inquiries now amounted to around 700 per year, with replies at around 1,400. He thanked John Urie, who took care of this secretarial function for the Society.

Election to the Board of Trustees: Ronald Leith proposed that Bill Diack and Susan Freer be re-elected to the Board and Pat Black be elected to the Board. This proposal was seconded by Jean Shirer.

AOCB: It was pointed out that the post of Vice-Chairman had not been filled for some time. This was a matter, according to the new Constitution, for the new Board of Trustees to decide at their first meeting after the AGM, as was the appointment of a new Treasurer.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

ABERDEEN & NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES****Year ended 31 December 2018**

	Unrestricted Funds		Total	Total
	General	100	Funds	Funds
Notes	Fund	Club	2018	2017
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income:				
Covenants and Gift Aid	13,652	-	13,652	7,762
Donations	8,882	-	8,882	40,127
Legacy income	-	-	-	44,343
Annual fees	-	1,426	1,426	1,554
Investment income:				
Interest received	694	-	694	259
Incoming resources from charitable activities:				
2				
Subscriptions	62,781	-	62,781	61,545
Publication sales	15,601	-	15,601	17,475
Research and queries	4,278	-	4,278	6,850
Other incoming resources:				
Other income	497	-	497	213
	£106,384	£1,426	£107,810	£180,128
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities				
3				
Direct charitable expenditure	98,032	711	98,743	79,055
Depreciation	5,708	-	5,708	4,450
	£103,740	£711	£104,452	£83,505
Net incoming resources	2,644	715	3,359	96,623
Total funds brought forward	320,308	3,749	324,057	227,434
Total funds carried forward	£322,952	£4,464	£327,416	£324,057
	5			

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**Year ended 31 December 2018****3. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED – CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES GENERAL FUND**

	Direct		Total	Total
	Charitable	Depr'n	2018	2017
	Expenditure	£	£	£
Publication cost of sales	8,180	-	8,180	8,343
Provision for slow and non-moving stock	-	-	-	-
Printing Society Journal	15,365	-	15,365	16,714
Postages and Journal distribution	11,246	-	11,246	9,684
Stationery and office supplies	3,914	-	3,914	2,883
Insurance, heat, light and telephone	5,675	-	5,675	13,021
Rent	6,000	-	6,000	6,525
Rates	1,970	-	1,970	1,987
Equipment repairs and maintenance	363	-	363	326
Meeting expenses	1,655	-	1,655	1,367
Conference and course expenses	51	-	51	-
Affiliation fees and subscriptions	2,950	-	2,950	2,805
Advertising	50	-	50	-
Internet and IT expenses	988	-	988	708
Accountancy fee	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Professional fees	3,328	-	3,328	3,655
Bank and credit-card charges	1,782	-	1,782	2,395
Sundry expenses	8,245	-	8,245	5,645
Foreign exchange (gains)/losses	-	-	-	-
Building and library repairs	25,271	-	25,271	842
Depreciation	-	5,708	-	4,450
	£98,032	£5,708	£103,740	£82,349
100 CLUB				
Building and library repairs	-	-	-	435
Prizes etc.	711	-	711	721
	£711	£-	£711	£1,156
	9			

Financial Report to AGM – 16th March 2019

This will be my last AGM report as Treasurer. I feel it is now time to stand down and encourage someone younger and sharper to take over. Meantime, our Chairman has indicated he will take on the reporting-to-committee role of the Treasurer. I will continue with the necessary tasks (banking/recording) until a successor is found.

Full audited copies of accounts are available at King Street or can be e-mailed or posted out to members. Main points on the pages of accounts are as follows:

Page 5 – income

The Gift Aid is almost double the normal level due to the Granite Roots Appeal donations received during the previous year. We have continued to receive donations for the Granite Roots Appeal, and this accounts for just over half the donations received during the year.

Sales of books and publications continue to show a downward trend.

Overall, it was a positive year for the Society, with a net surplus of £3,359.

Page 9 – expenditure

There was a noticeable increase over 2017 – £21,000 higher, but primarily down to spending on refurbishment – the purpose of the Granite Roots Appeal. Refurbishment costs are included under Building and Library Repairs.

The costs of postages and Journal distribution continue to increase.

In 2017, we were in dispute with Scottish Gas over the amount billed for gas. This was eventually resolved, and we also received a small amount of compensation. The credit for the 2017 charges is reflected in this year's total of insurance, heat, light and telephone.

Sundry expenses include costs associated with research (Broad Street Project), security (alarm system), cleaning and equipment maintenance.

Overall, we are in reasonable financial shape but not complacent, as costs continue to rise. We have proposed an increase in subscription rates for Ordinary Membership (rising from £21 to £25) and "Family Membership" (rising from £27 to £30), to be implemented in 2020. Digital/e-membership will remain as it is now: £18 (e-Ord.) and £24 (e-Family).

I would like to convey our thanks to our auditors, Williamson & Dunn, for a very prompt delivery of audit well in time for the AGM. But also my thanks to Andrew Horne (no. 19096), our own resident accountant, who prepares the end-of-year accounts for audit. Also to all other volunteers involved – their assistance is very much appreciated.

treasurer@anesfhs.org.uk

J Maria Cameron

No. 9680

—oOo—

Book Review: *Rubislaw to Ruhleben*

Margie Mellis and Doreen Black. *A Crew that Time Forgot: Rubislaw to Ruhleben* (Leopard Press, 2018). Paperback: 118pp, £9.99, ISBN 978-0-9570999-9-9.

Margie has been a volunteer librarian in our Family History Centre in King Street for many years. While researching her family history, she made contact with co-author and fellow graduate Doreen Black. Doreen wrote the book's final chapter as a tribute to her own grandfather, but unfortunately she died soon after the book was published.

The idea for this book was triggered by a cutting from the *Scots Magazine* shown to Margie about a prisoner-of-war in a German civilian camp called Ruhleben, near Berlin.

He had been on the SS *Rubislaw*, which sailed regularly between Aberdeen and Hamburg. The ship sailed into Hamburg on 2nd August 1914 – and, two days later, Great Britain declared war on Germany. The ship was impounded, and the crew and passengers were interned. Margie's great-grandfather, Charles Wilson, was a steward on the ship; and Doreen's grandfather, David McKay Tulloch, was chief engineer.

Margie also happened to read an article on a horticultural society set up by the prisoners in Ruhleben. They had organised a committee to improve the conditions in the camp to make their imprisonment more bearable. Her research discovered that the prisoners had set about turning a bleak and barren site into gardens where they could grow food to supplement their meagre rations. They received help from home with clothing and other items, including seeds for the gardens. As well as cultivating gardens, where they also grew flowers, other activities were laid on such as handicrafts, lectures and physical exercise to keep them occupied.

This is a well-researched book, with many illustrations throughout the text. The story demonstrates the resilience of the various civilians, especially ships' crews, who found themselves caught up unexpectedly in a wartime situation, which they turned into a positive experience. This book is very readable, and I would recommend it, as it shows a more unusual and positive aspect of the First World War.

The book is available via the Society: code GM033; weight 350g. Journal 133 (Nov 2014, pp. 14–18) has a good report by Margie on her family connection and on some of her research, including a list of all the ship's crew, that eventually led to writing this book.

kitcorall@gmail.com

Kit Corall No. 1000

—oOo—

Graveyard Outing 2019

This year's Outing takes us to **Old Deer** on Saturday 1st June, from 10:30am until 4:30pm, with the option of relaxing afterwards over high tea at the Country Park Inn, Mintlaw.

As with last year's successful outing to Forgue, we will be working to overhaul and complete an earlier draft record of Memorial Inscriptions. Once again, we have had the help of a small group of locally-based volunteers to update and correct the kirkyard plan, and we will have the use of the Kirk's facilities on the day. All necessary materials will be provided, and all helpers are welcome, from experienced graveyarders to total beginners.

In the Good Old Days, we would simply have asked you to add your names to a list at King Street, but as the General Data Protection Regulations appear to frown on such methods, there are now two ways to sign on:

1. at King Street, by completing a simple form, which can be left in the "MIs" pigeonhole at the front desk; or
2. by e-mail to either ***mis@anesfhs.org.uk*** (me) or ***syllabus@anesfhs.org.uk*** (Teresa).

Whichever way you choose to sign on, please ensure we have your **name**, **membership number** and some form of **contact** detail (either phone or e-mail). And please tell us if you want to come to the high tea – we need to let the inn know how many to cater for. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you for a grand day out.

mis@anesfhs.org.uk

Gavin Bell MI Co-ordinator

“I’d help if I was nearer”

Among the occasional thank-you letters from grateful customers, this is a constant refrain. But there’s also a Family History Society *near* you that is looking for help.

You could be recording graveyards near your home, manning the stall at meetings, making the tea. The nearby FHS may have a subscription to Ancestry or FindMyPast that you can access as part of your membership. There may be Scottish members (there are *always* Scottish members!) who can help you, or you could help them. Join your *local* FHS.

My background is all Irish, but I have been a member of Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS for over 30 years – drawn in by access to the IGI. Yes, I am also a member of the Irish FHS – and of the Lincolnshire FHS for my husband’s family. I have made a lot of friends, helped other Irish descendants (the Irish too are everywhere!) and even learned my way around Scottish genealogy research to some extent. I send out the books you order.

You can help your nearest FHS – just do an Internet search. There are *dozens*.

gay.murton@anesfhs.org.uk

Gay Murton No. 2127

—oOo—

Postal Sales Report

In the last month, we have had 40 enquiries and dispatched 24 postal items, ranging from a single MI booklet to a huge parcel of £78 worth of books. At the time of writing, another 10 or so orders await payment, or await one missing book.

Most orders are turned around within a week – but we are not Amazon with warehouses and armies of staff! A Friday payment may not be dealt with until Tuesday. If you tack another query on to your payment, it will hold things up.

Keep those orders coming, but please be patient, be clear.

Postal Sales Team

—oOo—

Quittin’ Time

Our franking-machine contract expires soon – do we get a new, updated, even cleverer machine? Go for Royal Mail’s Click-and-Drop service? New systems, new technology!

Quittin’ time! Having been dispatching your book orders for many years, I’m getting old, making mistakes, struggling with new technology. Many excellent co-workers have got old too, or moved away, or got embroiled with grandchildren / aged parents / all of those.

Two new helpers have joined up – younger, fitter, more techno-savvy, already suggesting improvements. “Change what you like”, I said happily. “You’ll be implementing it!”

I show them my sales techniques – just one MI? You could add that parish’s 1696 Poll Tax book without increasing postage! Have you got the parish map? Here’s a list of other books about that parish, that topic ... I do try to use every gramme of postage to your advantage. If that price covers a packet up to 500g, why not buy 498g of books?!

I shall do more on my own family history, using our Society’s excellent resources and our access to Ancestry and FindMyPast; I shall cultivate my garden, which is as untidy as my desk (standing joke!); perhaps clear the clutter in my house ...

Gay Murton No. 2127

Library Report

In the previous Library Report (Journal 150, pp. 12–13), I mentioned how useful school magazines could be in contributing to family-history research. Thanks go to all of you who donated school magazines to our Library as a result. One of our members has alerted me to the fact that back copies of *The Gordonian*, the magazine of Robert Gordon's College, are available online, covering the period 1908 to 2016. You can find them at <https://www.rgc.aberdeen.sch.uk/about/history/archives> and then clicking on the link.

Our Library has not been forgotten in the programme of refurbishment, and new lighting has made it much brighter. We've also acquired some more shelving. This will be most useful, because some sections in the Library are very tightly packed, and it can be difficult to find space in the right place for donations and new books. We're trying to rearrange things slightly – but hopefully not so much that it will cause confusion! – to create more space, and make it easier to find the books.

The Library team is a small one, and it would be good to have more volunteers to help out. You don't need to be a qualified librarian – there's a lot to do in the Library making it tidy and more accessible. If you can spare even a couple of hours a week, the Library team would be very pleased to hear from you.

library@anesfhs.org.uk

Margie Mellis

No. 2090

—oOo—

100 Club News

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

The payout is always 50 per cent of the income, and there are four prizes in the monthly draw (1st 20 per cent, 2nd 15 per cent, 3rd 10 per cent and 4th 5 per cent of the income). **You must be a current member of the Society.** If you decide not to renew your ANESFHS membership, please **also cancel** your standing order for the 100 Club.

The draw takes place monthly, and **we are introducing online banking for the 100 Club to pay winners. It is now essential that we are kept up to date with changes to 100 Club members' bank-account details.** Winners are also announced in the Journal. For further details, please see the current Information Booklet on our website. If you'd like to join, then please e-mail me (below).

	1st prize		Mem.	2nd prize		Mem.	3rd prize		Mem.	4th prize		Mem.
	No.	(£24·00)	No.	No.	(£18·00)	No.	No.	(£12·00)	No.	No.	(£6·00)	No.
Feb	10	Graham Collie	20933	73	William Low	484	11	Sheila Armstrong	9082	97	Elaine Muir	20837
Mar	79	Angus Pelham Burn	19808	20	Kenny Harrison	13946	39	Fraser Coull	2723	125	Janet Brown	15008
Apr	11	Sheila Armstrong	9082	97	Elaine Muir	20837	39	Fraser Coull	2723	82	Richard Field	935

100club@anesfhs.org.uk

Teresa Shewell

No. 4883

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

Missing War Memorials

In Journal 133 (Nov 2014, pp. 11–13), I wrote an article, “My Cox family and the ‘magic’ chair”, about my great-grandfather Thomas Cox’s rocking chair, resplendent with a silver plaque, which had been awarded to him in 1898 for his efforts as part of the Ancient Order of Foresters. Along with this story was the question: “does anyone know the whereabouts of the AOF war-memorial Roll of Honour which hung in Charlotte Street United Free Church in Aberdeen?”

I have since discovered that the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds’ war memorial, which hung in the same church, is also missing. The UFC largely reunified with the Church of Scotland in 1929, and both war memorials were transferred in the 1930s to the church of St George’s-in-the-West; however, it closed in the 1960s, transforming into St George’s Tillydrone. Just in case anyone can help to trace these memorials, I thought I’d ask again.

I’ve looked in old newspapers online, have contacted St George’s Tillydrone, have visited the former St George’s-in-the-West (now “Caf⁴e@Credo”), have spoken to the Depute Clerk of Aberdeen Presbytery who in turn has contacted the Scottish Archivist, and will next visit the Town House Archives to search the Presbytery Minutes. I’ve also contacted Aberdeen University Library.

The Editor adds: Heather’s original article is fascinating. You can read it on the Society’s website: log in (top right), select “Journals” (left), and enjoy the story.

cairnstar@aol.com

Heather Smith No. 13916

British Army Wives, Napoleonic Wars

In your February issue, you very kindly published my request for information about British army wives during the Napoleonic Wars. I thought you and your members might like to know that I had a good response. No fewer than six people contacted me, and between them provided some really useful information. I was impressed by the fact that one e-mail came from the USA and another from Australia. Clearly the ANESFHS Journal is a publication with global reach!

davidclammer@gmail.com

David Clammer (non-member)

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

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

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

Queries

- 151/1 *GARDEN*: During my personal research, I am intrigued by the number of Gardens who were/are involved professionally in music, art and the media. Now I am trying to find a common gene/source of their talent. I can trace my paternal line to 3g-gf John Garden (b. 1781), m. 1804 Margaret *McWILLIAM*. His parents were probably John Garden m. 1772 Helen *SIEVEWRIGHT*. Several Garden descendants were decorators and plasterers in the Mortlach and Fochabers area, but the common occupation of the various ancestors seems to be farm work around Macduff, Keith and Mortlach, which all seem near to Gardens of Troup land. I would welcome any help to move on, and names of any other Gardens involved in the arts, as I live so far away. Thanks to ANESFHS staff, and to Alex McKay through his recent book.

annadoxford@icloud.com

Anna Doxford

No. 21502

- 151/2 *STUART*: Where might I find a record of boating accidents on the River Spey, early 1800s? Seeking the identity of the father of my 2g-gf, Charles Stuart. All I have is the surname. Hoping to follow a thought that the father might have died in a boating accident. He might have been a fisherman on the river, as his occupation is given in the 1850 census of Northumberland County, New Brunswick as “farmer and fisher”. The father would have died between when my 2g-gf was b. 1806 and when Charles left Scotland as a presumed orphan with two Stuart aunts on a ship bound for New Brunswick in 1816. I’m on a “fishing” expedition but am desperate for clues.

susancox16@gmail.com

Susan Cox

No. 22390

- 151/3 I’m in the process of mapping a picture of Monquhitter at about 1859–61 and wonder if anyone has any info about families living in the district at that time. While I can gather facts, it would be useful to have a more personalised view of people or families. Monquhitter was still feudal, as most of the area was owned by landed gentry who rented out their property. Cuminstown, a planned village, was and still is the main settlement in the district.

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Barbara Lamb

No. 20206

Instructions for Queries

Queries are accepted from paid-up Society members free of charge. Non-members should donate £1.00 per query (or postage stamps). Up to four queries per person will be accepted per calendar year. The parts of a multi-part query count as separate queries. Each query will show the submitter’s name, e-mail address and membership number. The query service is intended for ancestor research and *not* as a finding service for recent or living relatives. We will omit parts of a query which we consider too recent, or which have no North-East Scottish content.

If you have asked the Society for research, you’ll receive an answer eventually. Please don’t duplicate requests by asking for research on the same question as a Journal query.

In each Journal, we include all the queries that are ready. Queries received close to our publication date will appear in the following Journal.

If you resubmit or update an old query, ***please annotate it accordingly***. Journal queries should be sent separately from other correspondence, with your name and membership number on each request, to: **queries@anesfhs.org.uk**

Diary

18th May 2019

ANESFHS Aberdeen meeting

Harry and his autograph book

Jill Williams

2:30pm, Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace

18th May 2019

ANESFHS Glasgow Group meeting

Members' Day: experiences of DNA-testing

2pm, Renfield Saint Stephen's Church Centre,
260 Bath Street, Glasgow

1st June 2019

Graveyard Outing to Old Deer Kirkyard

then high tea at Country Park Inn, Mintlaw

Sign up at King Street, or contact

mis@anesfhs.org.uk / syllabus@anesfhs.org.uk

1st June 2019

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group meeting

Making the most of the censuses

2pm–4pm, Activities Room, Elgin Library

7th September 2019

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group meeting

Bring along a brick wall

2pm–4pm, Activities Room, Elgin Library

14th September 2019

ANESFHS Edinburgh Group meeting

Using DNA to solve family-tree mysteries

Michelle Leonard, genetic genealogist

2pm, Royal Scots Club, 29 Abercromby Place

21st September 2019

ANESFHS Aberdeen meeting

TBA – See the website and next Journal

2:30pm, Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace

5th October 2019

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group meeting

Making the most of the Internet

2pm–4pm, Activities Room, Elgin Library

5th October 2019

ANESFHS Glasgow Group meeting

Church records

Chris Paton, genealogist and broadcaster

2pm, Renfield Saint Stephen's Church Centre,
260 Bath Street, Glasgow

12th October 2019

ANESFHS Midlands Group meeting

midlands@anesfhs.org.uk / 01564 770335

2:00pm at a member's house; all welcome

19th October 2019

ANESFHS Aberdeen meeting

The Broad Street Project (1911+)

Bert Lawrie

2:30pm, Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace

2nd November 2019

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group meeting

Making sense of your research

2pm–4pm, Activities Room, Elgin Library

9th November 2019

ANESFHS Edinburgh Group meeting

Using transatlantic resources: researching

Thomas Moonlight

Gary Lawrie, genealogist

2pm, Royal Scots Club, 29 Abercromby Place

16th November 2019

ANESFHS Aberdeen meeting

Topic TBA – see website and next Journal

Lord Provost Barney Crockett

2:30pm, Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace

16th November 2019

ANESFHS Glasgow Group meeting

WW1 soldiers and the Fromelles DNA project

Michelle Leonard, genetic genealogist

2pm, Renfield Saint Stephen's Church Centre,
260 Bath Street, Glasgow

7th December 2019

ANESFHS Aberdeen Meeting

Christmas Social

Bring the family, and meet other members

2:00pm, 136 King Street

7th December 2019

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group Meeting

Christmas Social

2:00pm, Elgin Library, Cooper Park, Elgin

Holiday closure, 158–164 King Street:

Closing at 1pm, Sat. 21st December 2019;

reopening at 10am, Monday 6th January 2020

4th January 2020

ANESFHS Moray/Banff Group Meeting

Bring along another brick wall

2pm–4pm, Activities Room, Elgin Library

18th January 2020

ANESFHS Aberdeen meeting

Beginners' Meeting – all welcome

2:30pm, Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace

Record of Ancestors

Membership No: 563
Name Doug Stewart
Date 25 Jan 2019
e-mail doug.stewart@mail.scot

3 Peter Rutherford Williams Stewart

Born 28 Sep 1899
Place Pitlochry, Perthshire
Married 31 Dec 1924
Place Pitlochry, Perthshire
Died 22 Apr 1975
Place Elgin, Moray
Occup. Burgh Workman

1 John Donald Shand Stewart

Born 04 Nov 1925
Place Pitlochry, Perthshire
Married 21 Sep 1955
Place Elgin, Moray
Died 22 Mar 2004
Place Elgin, Moray
Occup. Caretaker

4 Jane Hossack Shand

Born 23 May 1903
Place Falkirk, Stirlingshire
Died 22 Dec 1986
Place Lossiemouth, Moray
Occup. -

Doug Stewart

Born 18 Jun 1956
Place Elgin, Moray
Married -
Place -
Occup. Computer Programmer

5 George Milne

Born 08 Jul 1892
Place Alves, Moray
Married 09 Jul 1915
Place Deskford, Banffshire
Died 01 Jun 1956
Place Elgin, Moray
Occup. Storeman, Special Constable

2 Vera Margaret Milne

Born 17 Apr 1932
Place Elgin, Moray
Died 12 Aug 2012
Place Elgin, Moray
Occup. -

6 Jessie Spence

Born 28 Sep 1890
Place Deskford, Banffshire
Died 13 May 1975
Place Elgin, Moray
Occup. -

7	George Stewart		<i>Born</i>	29 Aug 1851	<i>Place</i>	Balnaguard, Perthshire
			<i>Married</i>	04 Jun 1880	<i>Place</i>	Tranent, East Lothian
8	Margaret Rutherford		<i>Died</i>	20 Nov 1922	<i>Place</i>	Pitlochry, Perthshire
			<i>Occup.</i>	General Labourer		
9	John Donald Shand		<i>Born</i>	02 May 1879	<i>Place</i>	Lossiemouth, Moray
			<i>Married</i>	27 Jun 1902	<i>Place</i>	Burghead, Moray
10	Jessie Sutherland		<i>Died</i>	02 Apr 1973	<i>Place</i>	Hopeman, Moray
			<i>Occup.</i>	Blacksmith		
11	John Milne		<i>Born</i>	25 Apr 1878	<i>Place</i>	Hopeman, Moray
			<i>Died</i>	22 May 1943	<i>Place</i>	Hopeman, Moray
12	Jessie McDonald		<i>Occup.</i>	-		
			<i>Born</i>	06 Jun 1858	<i>Place</i>	Knockando, Moray
13	James Spence		<i>Died</i>	27 Jan 1932	<i>Place</i>	Elgin, Moray
			<i>Occup.</i>	-		
14	Jessie Wilson		<i>Born</i>	23 Jan 1858	<i>Place</i>	King Edward, Aberdeenshire
			<i>Died</i>	12 Jul 1934	<i>Place</i>	Lintmill, Cullen, Banffshire
15	John Stewart		<i>Occup.</i>	-		
			<i>Born</i>	05 Aug 1822	<i>Place</i>	Balnaguard, Perthshire
16	Isabella Scott		<i>Married</i>	05 Mar 1848	<i>Place</i>	Dull, Perthshire
			<i>Died</i>	11 Aug 1914	<i>Place</i>	Portnasallan, Perthshire
17	John Williams Rutherford		<i>Occup.</i>	Ferryman, Railway Porter		
			<i>Born</i>	30 Jan 1823	<i>Place</i>	Tranent, East Lothian
18	Helen Scott		<i>Married</i>	21 Jul 1848	<i>Place</i>	Tranent, East Lothian
			<i>Died</i>	16 Jan 1893	<i>Place</i>	Tranent, East Lothian
19	James Shand		<i>Occup.</i>	Coal Miner		
			<i>Born</i>	25 Jul 1828	<i>Place</i>	Tranent, East Lothian
20	Jane Hossack		<i>Died</i>	07 Aug 1898	<i>Place</i>	New Craighall, East Lothian
			<i>Occup.</i>	-		
21	Alexander Sutherland		<i>Born</i>	11 Sep 1853	<i>Place</i>	Lossiemouth, Moray
			<i>Married</i>	23 Jun 1876	<i>Place</i>	Elgin, Moray
22	Isabella Young		<i>Died</i>	29 Jan 1944	<i>Place</i>	Lossiemouth, Moray
			<i>Occup.</i>	Tailor, Janitor		
23	John Milne		<i>Born</i>	10 Sep 1851	<i>Place</i>	Elgin, Moray
			<i>Died</i>	19 Jan 1932	<i>Place</i>	Lossiemouth, Moray
24	Elizabeth Cumming		<i>Occup.</i>	-		
			<i>Born</i>	1847/48	<i>Place</i>	Hopeman, Moray
25	John McDonald		<i>Married</i>	27 Oct 1876	<i>Place</i>	Hopeman, Moray
			<i>Died</i>	08 Oct 1927	<i>Place</i>	Burghead, Moray
26	Jessie Cruickshank		<i>Occup.</i>	Boat Carpenter		
			<i>Born</i>	11 Jul 1855	<i>Place</i>	Hopeman, Moray
27	Thomas Spence		<i>Died</i>	19 Sep 1934	<i>Place</i>	Burghead, Moray
			<i>Occup.</i>	-		
28	Elizabeth Russell		<i>Born</i>	1795	<i>Place</i>	Knockando, Moray
			<i>Married</i>	02 Sep 1828	<i>Place</i>	Knockando, Moray
29	Alexander Wilson		<i>Died</i>	02 Dec 1878	<i>Place</i>	Knockando, Moray
			<i>Occup.</i>	Farmer		
30	Isabella Wood		<i>Born</i>	01 Jul 1831	<i>Place</i>	Knockando, Moray
			<i>Married</i>	01 Aug 1854	<i>Place</i>	Knockando, Moray
31	James Spence		<i>Died</i>	08 Apr 1899	<i>Place</i>	Knockando, Moray
			<i>Occup.</i>	Agricultural Labourer		
32	Thomas Spence		<i>Born</i>	15 Jun 1793	<i>Place</i>	Keith, Banffshire
			<i>Married</i>	01 Jul 1824	<i>Place</i>	Keith, Banffshire
33	Elizabeth Russell		<i>Died</i>	06 Feb 1863	<i>Place</i>	Keith, Banffshire
			<i>Occup.</i>	Agricultural Labourer		
34	James Spence		<i>Born</i>	01 Apr 1846	<i>Place</i>	Keith, Banffshire
			<i>Married</i>	20 Jun 1874	<i>Place</i>	Keith, Banffshire
35	James Spence		<i>Died</i>	24 Sep 1929	<i>Place</i>	Lintmill, Cullen, Banffshire
			<i>Occup.</i>	Quarrier & Crofter		
36	Jessie Wilson		<i>Born</i>	23 Jan 1858	<i>Place</i>	King Edward, Aberdeenshire
			<i>Died</i>	12 Jul 1934	<i>Place</i>	Lintmill, Cullen, Banffshire
37	James Spence		<i>Occup.</i>	-		
			<i>Born</i>	1818/19	<i>Place</i>	Alvah, Banffshire
38	James Spence		<i>Died</i>	21 Feb 1898	<i>Place</i>	Grangepans, West Lothian
			<i>Occup.</i>	-		

Articles

Ghoulish Pedigree

More years ago than I care to remember, I filled in my Ancestor Chart and submitted it to the Society. As time went by, I delivered many revised versions (see centre pages of this Journal issue). I was reminded of these efforts when reading the new Privacy Policy published by the Society to deal with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements – yes, I did read the whole document!

All of this prompted me to revisit my Ancestor Chart – and an idea came to mind. Perhaps it was a rather macabre thought; but, as a variation on the standard names, dates and places, I chose to prepare a version showing causes of death and ages only.

Knox gives a list of the five most common causes of death in 19th-century Scotland:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Diseases of brain and nervous system | 4. Diseases of the digestive organs |
| 2. Diseases of the respiratory system | 5. Epidemic and contagious diseases. |
| 3. Diseases of the heart | |

By 2017, the National Records of Scotland list the leading causes of death in Scotland as:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Ischaemic heart disease | 4. Cerebrovascular diseases |
| 2. Dementia and Alzheimer's disease | 5. Chronic lower respiratory diseases. |
| 3. Lung cancers | |

So, what pattern can I see with my ancestors?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Heart | 5. Digestive organs |
| 2. Cancers | 6. Old age |
| 3. Respiratory system | 7. Others. |
| 4. Brain and nervous system | |

I had expected a pattern closer to that of the 19th century but, surprisingly, find the pattern of the main causes of death of my ancestors fits more closely to the 2017 analysis – possibly because very few lived in smoky, grimy, filthy cities.

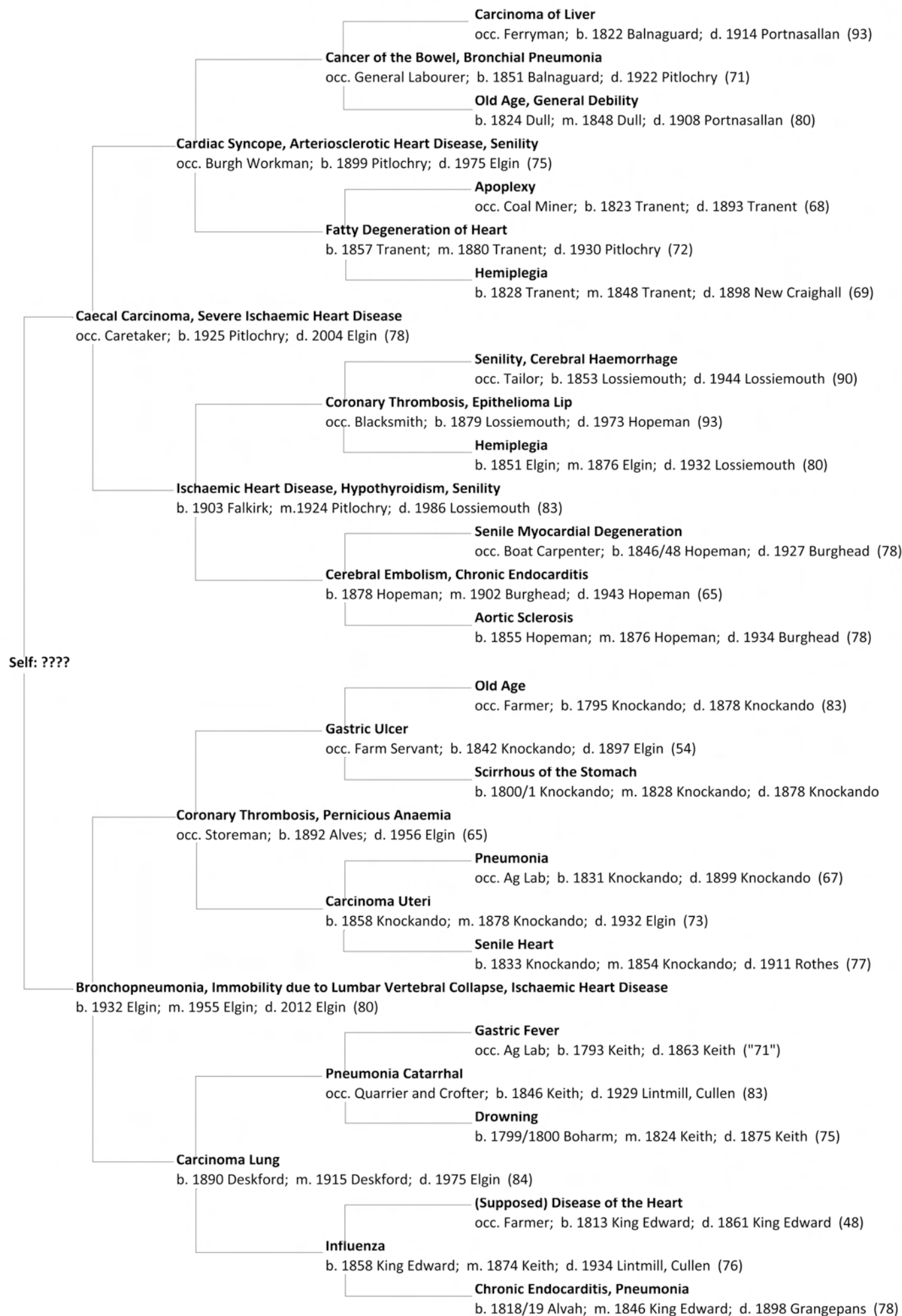
There is a noted exception: nothing fits “Dementia and Alzheimer's disease” except, possibly, the death by drowning of 2g-grandmother Elizabeth Spence on 6th June 1875 in the mill lade to Strathisla Mills, Keith, when “confused” was used in the official enquiry by the local constable.

I'm not sure I really wanted to know, but from my family I expect I will inherit heart problems, develop a form of cancer and die of pneumonia, being too weak to make battle. Well, at least I know what to look forward to – so much for living to a ripe old age!

Sources

Knox, W. W.: SCRAN, *A History of the Scottish People, Health in Scotland 1840–1940*, at https://www.scran.ac.uk/scotland/pdf/SP2_3Health.pdf

National Records of Scotland, “Leading causes of deaths in Scotland, 2017”, at <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/scotlands-facts/leading-causes-of-death-in-scotland>



The Business of Burial

Traditionally, burial grounds were provided by the Kirk, while nowadays burials are most likely to be in a cemetery owned and maintained by the town or county council. There are of course, fees to be paid, but provision of burial grounds has generally been seen as a public service. For approximately 100 years, however, from the early 19th to the early 20th century, some cemeteries were operated on a rather more hard-nosed commercial basis, as profit-generating investments.

This fact is illustrated by some documents which Andrew Gordon (no. 16302) was kind enough to donate to the Society recently, prompted by the publication of the memorial inscriptions for Nellfield Cemetery in Aberdeen. These include details of his great-great-grandfather, James Gordon, who is commemorated on a substantial mural monument on the prestigious northern boundary wall of the cemetery:

IHS
THE RESTING PLACE
OF
JAMES GORDON
BORN 15 NOVEMBER 1805 DIED 15 JULY 1889
AND HIS WIFE
MARGARET WELSH
BORN 14 MARCH 1807 DIED 1 NOVEMBER 1884
ALSO THEIR DAUGHTERS
MARY KATHARINE
WHO DIED 5 MAY 1840 AGED 17 DAYS
MARGARET WELSH
WHO DIED 1 MAY 1848 AGED 11
THEIR ELDEST SON
GEORGE
WHO DIED 21 MARCH 1897 AGED 52

A separate plaque at ground level adds:

ALSO IN MEMORY OF
ANDREW
WHO DIED AT PARKGATE, BUSHEY, HERTS
13 SEPTEMBER 1907 AGED 60.
JESSIE
WHO DIED AT BATH, SOMERSET
4th November 1916
INTERRED WESTHAMPSTEAD CEMETERY



Although he did not die until 1889, James had actually made provision for his burial nearly half a century earlier, because the first of the documents in his descendant's possession records the purchase of the burial lair. This is headed "Nellfield Cemetery, Aberdeen, 7 May 1840", and records the sale to "Mr James Gordon Draper Aberdeen" of "Lair No. 154 in the Nellfield Cemetery" for the sum of Six Pounds Six Shillings. To this receipt is attached a plan of the burial ground (which at that date covered only the most northerly part of the cemetery) showing the location of Lair 154. The drapery business was obviously doing well, because the quoted cost of the lair is as much as some domestic servants then earned in a year.

One condition of the sale is that "The lair is to be enclosed by a metal railing within six months from this date". The photograph showing this railing must have been taken before 1940, when all ornamental railings were impounded to help with the war effort.

A further condition states that: “Notice of Interment to be given to the Sexton the day preceding the proposed interment and all dues payable before the ground is opened”. The amount of the “dues” (i.e. for permitting a burial to take place) is not stated, but these and the cost of the “metal railing” are likely to have been significant. The receipt does not specify how many burials may take place in the lair, nor does it mention any ongoing maintenance costs.

These are the subject of two later documents, which take the form of a handwritten letter and a more formal pre-printed certificate, essentially recording the same information, namely the receipt, on 17th January 1906, from “A. Gordon Esq., 62 Cornhill, London” of the sum of “Eight pounds 10 Shg^s Stg”. This represents the cost of “dressing in perpetuity the Lair No. 154 ... including headstone and railing”. It seems likely that “A. Gordon Esq.” is the same Andrew Gordon who died less than two years later and who is commemorated on the additional plaque mentioned above.

These two documents also clarify the ownership of Nellfield Cemetery: the letter heading shows it to be “The Aberdeen Baker Incorporation”, one of the ancient trade guilds of the city. These originally had the exclusive power to regulate the specific trade concerned. They lost that power in the mid-19th century, but they continued, in effect, as “friendly societies”, providing insurance services and pensions to their members.

In order to meet their obligations, they took the opportunities offered by the city’s rapid expansion to invest their funds in revenue-bearing projects. Some trades used their capital to build housing for the expanding workforce, and to profit from the rents. But the Baker Corporation opted to provide accommodation for the dead rather than the living, and around 1836 set up Nellfield, the city’s first completely new cemetery. The venture seems to have been profitable, because, over the following 40 years, the cemetery was further extended in two phases, ultimately covering an area three times the size of the original.

The Bakers were not alone in investing in cemeteries. Some years ago, while rummaging in the “odds and ends” box of a second-hand bookseller, I came across a small booklet which recorded the sale, in 1904, of a lair at Aberdeen’s Trinity Cemetery. Trinity Hall is still the home of the guilds’ umbrella organisation, the “Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen”; and Trinity Cemetery was a joint project owned by all the Trades and administered by “the Master of the Trades’ Hospital”.

In the 60-odd years since James Gordon had first purchased his lair at Nellfield, cemetery management had become rather more formalised, not to say bureaucratic. Apart from the certificate of purchase, the booklet contains six pages of “Conditions” to be observed by purchasers of lairs, and a detailed table of charges. Some of these conditions give one a faintly queasy feeling:

Full-sized graves will be made 6 feet deep; extra depth, 2/6 per foot for new graves, and 5/- per foot for deepening graves where interments have taken place.

No coffin shall be laid nearer the surface than three feet. No coffin shall be removed from the ground, even temporarily, without permission obtained through the Superintendent.

The regulations specify that “Monumental space will be provided at the head of each private Lair; but no Monument, Tablet, Inscription, Enclosure, Erection, Tree, Shrub, Vault or Building of any kind will be permitted until a drawing and specification of what is proposed have been submitted to and approved by the Master of Trades’ Hospital or his factor”. Lair-holders are further obliged to keep such monuments “in good order and

repair to the satisfaction of the Master of Trades' Hospital". Failure to comply with this requirement could ultimately lead to a lair being taken back into the ownership of the Trades' Hospital.

The table of charges lists no fewer than six different classes of private lair. No details are given of the specification of these different classes, but we can assume that they were differentiated by size and probably also location. Costs are given for the initial purchase of the lair, for each interment (varying by age of the deceased), and for "dressing lairs", whether by an annual charge or "in perpetuity" (for a fee approximately 15 times the annual cost). A "Class I" lair would cost £7-7-0 (not much more than James Gordon had paid at Nellfield in 1840, but still a substantial sum). Interment fees for Class I started at £0-12-0 for deceased "Of no age, and under 1 year old" and went up to £1-0-0 for "Above 14 years of age". The annual maintenance charge was £0-5-0, while for £3-15-0 you could buy maintenance "in perpetuity". The other types of lair range downwards in cost to £2-2-0 for purchase of Class VI, with interment and maintenance charges in proportion.

There was an additional Class VII which did not include purchase of an exclusive lair, but did allow for interment "in unpurchased ground upon payment of the dues". The implications of this are not spelled out, but careful reading of the regulations suggests two things. Firstly, such burials would remain unmarked, since only owners of private lairs had the right to set up gravestones. Secondly, since a single lair would normally have room for more than one coffin, you might end up sharing a grave with strangers – quite possibly in a lair which had been "repossessed" for lack of maintenance.

mis@anesfhs.org.uk

Gavin Bell

No. 4085

—oOo—

Findhorn, the Harbour of Forres

During the reign of David I (r. 1124–53), a trading union or "Hanse", which had been formed some 50 years earlier by the coastal towns of Aberdeen, Banff, Elgin, Forres, Nairn and Inverness, and probably also Cromarty and Dornoch, was given the king's full approval and recognition. This allowed free trade and possibly also free movement of tradesmen and craftsmen between the burghs, and may have been a further formalisation of the trading links that had existed for maybe the past five or six centuries. By the 12th century, this union was almost certainly becoming associated with the "Hanseatic League" which was eventually, as vessels grew larger, to see trade links with Bergen in Norway, the Danish and north German ports, the Baltic and ultimately much of northern Europe. Such trading links would have led to the eventual expansion of Findhorn as the port for Forres and as one of the principal ports of the Moray Firth. By 1532, the port of Findhorn was established into a Burgh of Barony by the Abbot of Kinloss; and the following century saw a great expansion of the port.

The salmon fishings and the export of salmon from Findhorn are well documented in the Exchequer records of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, which give a good indication of how important this trade was following the Reformation, in addition to the merchant trade from the port. In August 1558, William Waught paid taxes on the export of 11 lasts of salmon, and Alexander Acheson on 14 lasts. On 29th January 1587, there is a Sasine of the "*fishings of five stells and yairds*" to Mr Edward Bruce, for a period of seven years. This obviously continued, as it was restated in a charter of 1598. A "*Charter of Findhorne*"

dated 1611 makes mentions of James Andersone there, and witnesses include Johnne Steill, William Dunbar and George Duff.

In 1661, according to the Burgh Charter, the town had a right to a harbour and a station for ships. This was no doubt an indication that in earlier times either the sea came closer to the town, or the River Findhorn was navigable to a point nearer the town, probably Waterford or Greishop; but this access had now silted up. The attempt in 1661 by Forres to exercise the use of Findhorn as its port was disputed by Robert Innes of Muiretounne, the laird of the Barony of Findhorn. After a bitter and occasionally violent dispute, the burgh of Forres gained the use of the port, from which it was to benefit greatly over the following two centuries. The following century saw a great expansion of the port, with vessels trading to an even greater extent with Europe and the Baltic ports.

James Calder, later Sir James, a merchant in Elgin, was granted a charter under the Great Seal, on 6th February 1671, of the lands and Barony of Muirtown. He, in company with William King of Newmill, Elgin, carried on an extensive business as export and import merchants. A series of Exchequer documents from 1673–4 indicate that trade was very extensive with the Baltic and north German ports such as Bremen, Hamburg and Danzig, as well as with the other ports already mentioned. In the later 17th century, Findhorn, now designed “the port of Forres”, must have been an amazing sight and a hive of activity – so much so that it was at this period that the magistrates of Elgin became determined to found their own harbour at Lossiemouth in competition with Findhorn and Garmouth.

By 1690, James Calder and William King exported from Findhorn “*Beaff, tongues, tallow, hydes, bear, malt etc.*” to Bordeaux, Drontone (now Perugia, in Italy), Rotterdam and so on, and from these ports they imported

wine, brandy, soap, powder, reassins, ffigs, prunes, green ginger, suggar, pepper, indigo, cloves, nutmuggs, rice, needles, muslen, camel’s hair, mourning creapp, hattts of the newest fashion (all black), white Renish wine [Rhine wine or Hock], clear hard seck, tobacco, pypes, ffrench wines etc.

A bundle of shipping ledgers from the period 1686–95 identifies Andrew Russell as one of the merchants whose vessels used the port of Findhorn, but there are also mentions of William Jaffray, James Thomson, and Jan and Jacob van Rixel. Andrew Russell is also frequently mentioned as being involved in trade from the ports of Borrowstounness (now Bo’ness), Leith, London, Stockholm and Rotterdam, and must have been a very influential person in the trade at this time. Among the ships leaving Findhorn during these ten years were the *Lyon*, *William* and *Lendrie*, all of Leith; *Lyon* of Queensferry; *Helen*, *Land of Promise*, *Concord* and *Swan*, all of Borrowstounness; *Anoris*, *Providence*, *Maria*, *Isobel*, *Boath*, *Beattie* of Burntisland, *Friendship* of Bristol and the *Royendermann* of Stockholm. It is interesting to note the number of vessels from the Firth of Forth – from Burntisland, Borrowstounness, Leith and Queensferry. Among the given ports of origin or destinations in this one bundle are Leith, Rotterdam, Dundee, Bo’ness, Queensferry, Briel, Amsterdam, Dublin, Waterford, Greenock, Dysart, Kirkcaldy and Stockholm. The average size of the vessels was about 90 tons, thereby carrying a relatively small cargo.

A typical example of the trade carried on by Findhorn vessels is shown on 2nd July 1692, when a contract was made between

George, Viscount of Tarbet, Lord McLeod and Castlehaven on the one part and William Dawsons, skipper in Findhorn and Master under God of the good ship called

the Isobell of Findhorn on the other whereby the latter lets his said ship for freight to the said Viscount to take in at Portmaholmack 440 bolls of bear and transport the same to Leith, for which causes the said Viscount obliges himself to pay £163/10/0 Scots for each chalder of bear he shall deliver at Leith with one boll of meal and one barrel of ale within 48 hours after delivering of said freight ...

Andrew Russell was staunchly Protestant. In a letter which he received in 1687 from James Adie in Danzig, including news of bills paid, there is the comment from the writer:

Itt is Joyfull Newes to use here when wee hear that poperie meitts opposition in these Nations the Lord give Strenth & abiletie to all the trew lovers of Jesus Christ to resist and oppose the Increase of that Adolletrous & Superstitious worship in these lands & God increase the trew Labourers of his vineyard to awaken dead and sleepe consciences in these traying times.

In 1694, the estate and lands of Culbin, on the west side of Findhorn Bay, were covered by sand blown from the west, which completely obliterated the estate. The sand also choked the course of the River Findhorn, and was almost certainly a contributory factor to the events of 1701. At this time, William Barron held one of the Findhorn Rentals.

In 1701 (some sources suggest 1702), probably in the autumn, the old village of Findhorn was destroyed by a severe storm from the north-east along with very high tides, which breached the sandbar on which the old village was built. After this destruction, Findhorn's economy fell into rapid decline, almost certainly because of the loss of facilities for vessels to moor or beach at the port. Only when a second, probably temporary village was established in 1705 did the fortunes of the port begin to revive. This second village would have been used to keep the port's economy viable while the proper, or third, village was being built, this not being fully completed, on its present site, until several years later.

The revival of Findhorn is clearly shown on 17th November 1708, when the captain of *The Seven Brothers*, William Dawson, later to become Provost of Forres, was employed by the lairds of Kilravock, Clava, Thunderton, Kinsterie and Muirtoun to carry a cargo to Lisbon, which comprised “791½ bolls of bear at £3/6/8d per boll, 3 last of hareings at £96 per last, 6,500 dried codd-fish at £14 per 100, 6 barrels salmond at £38 per barrel and 18 barrels of grilses at 1/5th rebate of salmond price”, giving a total value of the cargo to Portugal as £4,611 10s 8d Scots money.

It was almost certainly due to the destruction of the village in 1701 that James Calder's business began to decline. He fell into financial difficulties and renounced the lands of Muirtown and Findhorn in favour of Rose of Kilravock in about 1710.

In 1713, various letters from Findhorn to Burghead, mainly regarding the price of fish, identify Thomas Findlay, Gilbert Thom and John Marnoch as skippers in Findhorn. In 1717, the *Jannet* of Belfast sailed from Findhorn with “121 barrels of ‘grilsess’ at £2 Stg per barrel, 35 barrel of salmon at £2/10/6d per barrel and 31 barrels of herreings at 10 shillings per barrel”, a total of £345 sterling of cargo.

In 1727, some of the Findhorn fishermen were moved east to Portessie in Banffshire to establish the fishing industry there. The Laird of Rannas provided five houses for them in the village, which was at that time known as Rottenslough.

Eventually, the new village was fully established on its present site, straggling along the arc of the north-east shore of Findhorn Bay, and comprised rows of fishermen's cottages

built in the typical North-East style with their gable-ends to the water. The intervening lanes are known locally as the “stryplies”. The centre of the village now is the square around the Crown and Anchor Inn, a white crow-stepped building which dates from 1739.

The Bay of Findhorn is no longer “the port of Forres” but is now a very attractive tourist destination enjoyed by visitors and tourists alike, with the stone-built jetty being the only evidence of its busy historic past.

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—oOo—

William Reid, Gordon Highlander

It's amazing how much you can find out about someone. Ten years ago, I knew very little of my Grandpa, as he died three years before I was born. He was born on 7th February 1887 at Bridgend, Longside, Aberdeenshire, to farm servant William Reid snr and his wife Christian Taylor. He lived with his parents and siblings, and left school to work on local farms, but was attracted to the supposedly better life of the army. His plan in 1905, along with his friend Reuben from Strichen, was to “run away” along the railway line to join the Gordons. At the Gordon Highlanders' barracks on King Street in Aberdeen, they enlisted on 30th June and were signed up for nine years. William jnr was 18 years and 4 months old. His father tried to bail him out, but this did not work (or it was too late), so William became a regular soldier – service number 9776. Reuben returned home.

After training at Castlehill Barracks, William was posted to “B” Company, 2nd Regular Battalion, stationed at Peshawar in what is now Pakistan. In the hot summers, they moved 4,500 feet up to a hill station at Cherat; from July 1908 they transferred to Calcutta; and from December 1909 they moved to Cawnpore (now Kanpur). He attended the Delhi Durbar among the Gordons' guard of honour on 12th December 1911 when King George V was crowned Emperor of India. William is in photographs at Peshawar and Cawnpore.

The Battalion was then transferred in 1912 to Kasr-el-Nil Barracks, near Cairo, on the Suez Canal, where he looked after the Colonel's garden by using camel dung on his roses.

After the Great War broke out in August 1914, the 2nds embarked at Alexandria (Egypt) on 13th September on the SS *Assaye*, a converted 7,000-ton P&O cruiser. They disembarked at Southampton on 1st October and were taken to Lyndhurst Camp in the New Forest. This was a focal point for the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). William became part of the IV Corps, i.e. 2nd Bn Gordon Highlanders, 20th Brigade in the 7th Division. This Division would have had about 18,000 men and 5,500 horses, and the officer in charge of IV Corps was Lt-General Sir Henry Rawlinson.

After five days, A and B companies sailed to Zeebrugge, entrained for Bruges and moved into billets at St André along the Dixmude road. The trains usually consisted of covered horsebox wagons with room for 40 men and eight horses! The 2nd Bn also went by train from Ostend to Ghent in between days of marching and being re-billeted, then took part in reconnaissance towards Gheluvelt. There were skirmishes with the enemy; and on 30th

October the 2nd Bn withdrew to Veldhoek with 100 casualties (Battle of Gheluvelt). These included Lt James Anson Otho Brooke, killed in action and awarded a posthumous VC.

The Battalion took part in the First Battle of Ypres in October and November. December had heavy rain, and the trenches were flooded and full of liquid mud. During November, a work party from Longside Free Church sent the Red Cross some flannel bed-jackets, bed shirts, day shirts, feather pillows, pillow slips, various socks and bandages. They also posted an assortment of goods to the Gordon Highlanders at the front. William may well have benefited from some of these. Unbeknown to him, his future wife (my Granny) may well have made some of these items. (See Longside Millennium Book.)

The Princess Mary Fund sent every soldier a gift box in December; and my brother now has Grandpa's. During the Christmas Truce, the 2nd Bn was encamped over the border in France near Bois Grenier, and on New Year's Eve everyone had a hot bath at the dye factory. They had joint burials with the Germans at this time, and William shook hands with a German soldier called Friedrich.

During 1915, William was involved in various battles until he was wounded in September during hand-to-hand fighting in the Battle of Loos. (I believe this to have been shrapnel in the chest – not removed.) He was sent to Longside to convalesce (his first time home in 10 years). He aided as a recruiting sergeant in Peterhead, and would have got to know Granny, as his parents and the Thomson family lived in the same village. The Thomsons entertained troops who came home on sick leave.

William returned to the trenches as a sergeant, and in 1916 the Battalion was in the Battle of the Somme for five months. On 19th November 1917, the 2nd Gordons were sent as reinforcements to the Piave River area, near Padua in Italy. They remained in the area until September 1918, when a deception of the enemy took place which culminated in a defeat for the Austro-Hungarian Army on 4th November 1918.

William was wounded in the leg during this conflict. The Battalion had to deal with 7,000 prisoners, and remained there for four more months. On 18th March 1919, the Regiment passed through Turin, and on the 24th the Cadre bearing the Colours arrived at Aberdeen Joint Station. There was a break at Doncaster, where William was met by his fiancée.

While he was in Italy, the *Supplement to the London Gazette* had announced on 12th July 1918 a list of "Decorations conferred by His Majesty the King of the Belgians: Croix de Guerre". On page 8182, the recipients include:

9776 Serjeant William Reid, Gordon Highlanders (Peterhead, Aberdeenshire).

This was for (unspecified) meritorious service on the Western Front. The framed citation is in the Gordon Highlanders Museum in Aberdeen; and he was one of only 24 officers and men from the 2nd Gordons to receive a foreign decoration during the entire war.

He was also awarded the Military Medal, which was announced in the *London Gazette* on 29th March 1919 ("For bravery in the field") – most likely in the Battle of the Piave. In 1971, his family presented the Museum with these and his service medals, namely the 1914–1920 War Medal; the Victory Medal; and the 1914 Star with clasp "5th Aug – 22nd Nov 1914" and rose emblem.

By the end of the war, although his substantive rank was that of Sergeant, William held the Acting Rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 – that is, a Company Sergeant-Major. Continuing in the 2nd Gordons, he was based in late 1919 at Phoenix Park, Dublin, moving to Maryhill

Barracks, Glasgow in January 1920. A short return to Cork in Ireland in late 1921 was followed by Fort George near Inverness, and finally back to Castlehill Barracks in Aberdeen. His regimental number changed to an Army number (2865076) in early 1920.

He had married Janet Thomson on 11th June 1919 at Longside United Free Church, and they lived in married quarters at Castlehill. Three children were born during his stay there: Christian, Robert (my father) and Frederick, all in Longside at Granny's parents' house (Woodend Cottage on the Cairngall Estate). Lorna was born later in Bankhead, Aberdeen.

Probably in the summer of 1923, William was part of the King's Guard at Balmoral (about 40 men). As part of their duties, they marched the eight miles to guard the King when he was at Balmoral. The Scottish Screen Archive has a ciné film titled *Royal Occasions in Scotland 1897–1937*, 15 minutes long, but not available in video format. There is a very short clip in the middle with King George V at Ballater (either the railway station or the barracks) talking to Sergeant William Reid.

He had an embarrassing moment in 1923 on a tram on Union Street in Aberdeen while taking a brown-paper-wrapped clock to be mended. He was in his dress uniform (kilt) with the clock hidden behind his legs – when it started chiming and wouldn't stop.

On 30th June 1923, after 18 years, Sergeant Reid was awarded the Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Suffering from his war wounds, he was discharged on 5th March 1924 in Edinburgh as being physically unfit for further military service. He received a pension of 16s 1d per week (80p)! His address at discharge was Cairngall, Longside, and his conduct throughout his entire army service was described as "Exemplary".

Just one month after discharge, his third child was born and christened Frederick Reuben. Naming him after the German soldier from Christmas 1914 must have been William's comment on the war's terrible effects.

The family collection now includes the new shaving razor he bought from Alex Elrick's at 63 George Street, Aberdeen, and a five-inch chain which was possibly part of his fob watch after the war. I also have a 1921 edition of *The Gordon Highlanders* which, I guess, Grandpa was given when he left in 1924. It isn't easy to follow, but it gives an idea of where the 2nd Battalion served during his years of war service.

He also owned a silk/cotton custom-made embroidered Gordon Highlanders colours (with flag and battles). In the 1950s, my Dad had it made into a fire screen with wooden frame and glass protection. I had it restored and reframed, and in July 2015 it was presented to the Gordon Highlanders Museum. It was probably made in India and sent home from there, but how many of these were produced, or are surviving, is not known.



What was he to do now? He had no civilian skills, and his two injuries must have limited him, so he moved back to Longside and lived at Woodend Cottage. He found a job in Peterhead but couldn't settle, and may have been unemployed for a while. Luck was to

come the family's way. In 1913 a research institute had been built at Craibstone near Dyce, and in 1920 John Quiller Rowett (1876–1924), a London wine merchant, funded the purchase of 41 acres of land and crofts (Bridgefoot and Redpool) and gave £10,000 towards new buildings. This new site was called the Rowett Institute of Research in Animal Nutrition, and in 1926/27 Grandpa benefited from his brother-in-law Wullie Thomson, who worked there. Grandpa became the “keeper of poultry”, as funds had been provided for someone to look after this new section. A cottage came with this job, and it was known as the bothy – Bridgefoot Cottage. Lorna has the only known photograph of it. A Pearl Assurance Policy started by William on 25th November 1927 has his job title as “Poultry Attendant”; and the cottage had a second storey added before they moved in.

Wullie (Granny's brother) was a butler at Brucklay Castle before his time as a cavalryman in the Great War. He then trained as a mechanic and was often used as a chauffeur, working from Bucksburn Railway Station, where he became aware of the Rowett Institute. He started at the Rowett and became a sheep expert, then went on to manage the animal husbandry side, finally becoming the Director. He went on to be awarded the OBE.

The Poultry Section closed in 1935, and the family lost their home. They had to move to the nearby derelict smithy cottage with one fireplace, on Greenburn Road near the junction with Inverurie Road. It must have been a very difficult time for my grandparents, even though my father said it was quite an adventure for a child during that warm summer. Grandpa found work as an engineer's labourer at Stoneywood papermill, and had put their name down on the Council list for accommodation, as there was a very big programme of housebuilding going on at the time. Fortunately, by the end of the year, they became the first family to move into Greenburn Drive, Bankhead, at number 46.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Grandpa was having trouble with his legs, so he was given a shift job as an aeroplane spotter, based in a hut on top of the mill water tower. Apparently he didn't spot many enemy planes. He found much more satisfaction at home with his work in the Home Guard as treasurer and quartermaster. He was only 5' 6" tall, had piercing eyes and was a softly spoken man who loved gardening and attending Saturday-night dances at the British Legion in Mugiemooss Road, Bucksburn. Dad said he was a man of few words. My nephew Allan has his Gordons cap badge – “Bydand”. Grandpa also won a gold-coloured “Bydand” for billiards, but we don't know where this is. He was friends with John McHardy, a fellow Gordon who also had four children, one of whom, Sandy (Alexander), was a great pal of Dad and Fred. The families used to meet up regularly, but Sandy died when his RAF plane crashed somewhere in England.

Grandpa was taken ill in early 1944 and died at home on 16th August, aged only 57. He had suffered from lymphosarcoma and was cremated at Aberdeen's Kaimhill. Dad, who was serving in the Territorial Army in Italy, was not allowed any compassionate leave. His diary of 1944 and his letters home mention this. Christian (Kitty) is buried at the Rock Churchyard, Ellon, and her gravestone has an inscription to Grandpa and Granny.

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Gordon Highlanders Museum; ANESFHS; family stories; *Schooldays in Buchan, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, 1902–1911* by William Thomson, Greenlea, Kemnay, Aberdeenshire, Spring 1979 (30pp; typed copy lodged in ANESFHS library)

Emigration to Queensland, 1860s

This article is abridged from a much fuller presentation given in 2018 to the Gold Coast FHS

My Duncan ancestors lived in a semi-circular area in the Buchan region of north-east Aberdeenshire, from Peterhead down to Ellon. About 1850, Aberdeenshire's population was almost 200,000, of whom a third lived in Aberdeen city. Most of the rest lived in small towns and farm hamlets. About a third of the land was under cultivation, mainly for oats; and sheep and cattle were grazed. Crofters rented small areas of land up to 20 acres in exchange for labour on the tenant farmer's land. They subsisted on their smallholdings, growing vegetables and having a few stock, with their income often augmented by a trade such as weaving or blacksmithing.

Agricultural labourers or farm servants moved around to find work on the larger estates or with tenant farmers. Often they married late, as it took time to be able to rent a house and hope to become a crofter. Most of my Duncan and Smith ancestors fell into this category. Crofters' wives and children often had to assist with farm work on their own smallholding and the tenant farmer's land. They worked long hours for meagre rewards, could only afford a poor diet with little meat, and suffered famine in years of poor harvest.

The average household was 5–6, but some were as large as 12 or more. In large families, some of the older children had moved out before the youngest were even born, and some children lived with relatives due to lack of space. Two of my Smith ancestors aged 10 (a servant) and 14 (farm labourer) were found living in separate households.

A lifeline on the horizon

Queensland separated from New South Wales in 1859. The new Parliament wanted to encourage immigration to the vast expanse of the newly declared colony, whose population in 1861 was 30,059). In October 1860, the new government appointed Lincoln-born Henry Jordan as Emigration Officer in London to inform Britons about the colony and to recruit interested persons.

Shipping companies had heard of Sydney, Melbourne and Moreton Bay, but not of Queensland. Brisbane had been a penal settlement with no free settlers until 1842. The shipping companies argued that to operate a passenger service without freight was not financially viable. In addition, the ships needed to return to Britain with full loads.

The Black Ball Line, founded in 1852, had provided a regular service to Australia from the time of the gold rush, carrying thousands of immigrants to Port Phillip during the 1850s. In 1860, Henry Jordan successfully negotiated with this company. They agreed to provide a regular sailing schedule using suitable vessels, and required assurance that Jordan would guarantee sufficient paying passengers. He succeeded in this commitment by lecturing at 192 sites throughout Britain and Ireland, in the largest halls available, in almost six years. An estimated 161,200 attended.



Henry Jordan (1818–90) in 1887

My great-great-grandfather, Alexander Duncan, was born in 1841 in Ellon, and married Elizabeth Clark from Fordoun, Kincardineshire, in December 1862. Their first son, David, was born in April 1863, followed by Alexander in April 1864. An advertisement in the *Aberdeen Journal* may have aroused Alexander snr's interest in seeking a better life on the other side of the world. They arrived at Moreton Bay in December 1865.

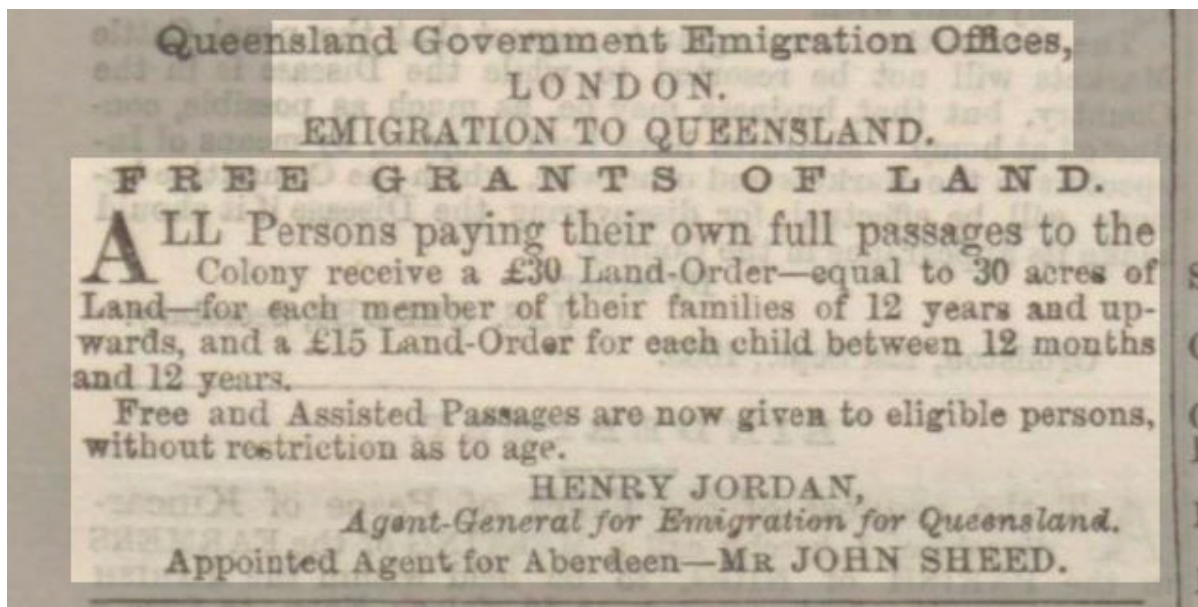
For a young family of this size, the fares of £15 would equal 6–12 months of a working man's income. For young domestic servants and farm labourers, even the £2 required for fares (rail fare and ship's outfit) represented one-fifth of annual incomes.



Aberdeen Press and Journal, Wednesday 26th October 1864, p. 2

Land orders were a legal tender for the selection and purchase of land once the immigrant arrived in Queensland (if paying their own passage in full, or if a shipping agent paid). The conditions under which they were issued changed over time, and the value of land orders varied (e.g. £15–£30 at £1/acre). A further order of £12 for 12 acres was issued after two years' residence in the colony.

If your fare-paying ancestors arrived in Queensland from Britain between 1861 and 1874, you may be able to find their Queensland Land Orders on www.findmypast.com.au by inserting their name and year of arrival. Queensland State Archives (Treasury Records) hold these on microfilm, and until 1907 in card indexes. I found no Land Orders for my Alexander and Elizabeth Duncan, because they took assisted passages.



Aberdeen Press & Journal, Wednesday 11th October 1865, p. 2

Jordan's promotional information soon provoked accusations by immigrants of deception, and criticisms by the Queensland government that the immigrants being secured were unsuited to the work expected of them. Male settlers encountered difficulties in acquiring and successfully cultivating the land promised to them by emigration literature. Accounts by pioneer women reveal the differences between the emigration literature's promises and the colonial reality. There are scarce written records of working-class immigrants, with many more accounts written by middle-class women whose lives were less of a struggle. When a large group of female passengers in 1890 were asked their reasons for emigrating, most admitted it was to find a husband as the male population in the new colony far outweighed females.

My 2g-grandfather's sister, Mary Duncan, married George Milne on 12th July 1861 in Old Deer. With their infant child, they left Plymouth on the *Jessie Munn* on 26th October 1861 (reaching Moreton Bay on 26th January 1862) for George to take up a job with Queensland Railways. He had applied through a Scottish newspaper advertisement, but I have yet to find one of these ads. Similar advertisements are at www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk. Further to that, in December 1864 the Queensland Government ordered Jordan to send more railway workers, or navvies, to work on the southern and western lines in the State, as they could not source enough men locally. Free passages would be given, and the usual screening and documentation would be waived. This continued until 1866. Queensland became the destination for more immigrants than anywhere else in Australia.

Emigration depots

Having decided to emigrate, hopefuls may have had to wait weeks or months to be notified of their ship's departure. At a few days' notice, they had to report to the emigration depot. They travelled by train to their departure port – quite a journey from Scotland. Ships departed from Liverpool, Plymouth, Southampton and London. Plymouth became popular for Queensland departures, largely because collisions and choppy conditions in the English Channel could be avoided. At the depot, the emigrants were examined for fitness for the voyage. They were assessed for obvious deformities or infectious diseases, and their arms were checked for signs of vaccinations.

Henry Jordan set down the duties for the ship's steward, the Surgeon-Superintendent, the baker, the schoolmaster, the matron and the cook. Emigrants were required to pay for an "outfit" at one of two price levels:

Outfit for 10s 6d (Aus \$1)	Outfit for 20s (Aus \$2)
1 bed	1 bed and pillow
2 sheets	2 sheets
water bottle	1 pair blankets
wash basin	1 counterpane
1 pint drinking mug	water bottle
knife and fork	wash basin
2 spoons	1 plate, knife, fork
3 lb marine soap	1 pint and 1 quart drinking mug
	3 lb soap
	1 slop pail

The journey begins

The *Jessie Munn* set sail from Plymouth on 26th October 1861 with 36 married couples (of which my Milne family were one), 60 single men, 130 single women, 16 boys and 16 girls aged 1–12, and five male and five female infants, totalling 304. When we consider the possibilities for disaster at sea, it is astounding that only three Queensland-bound vessels were wrecked in 1,317 voyages over 41 years. At times, the ships could be anchored off Plymouth Sound for weeks, waiting either for a fair wind or for conditions to calm a little.

The only sailing routes to Australia until 1881 were via the Cape of Good Hope. In 1879 the Suez Canal was completed, and ships then had the option to sail that route. In fact, it led to significant shifts in trading between Europe and Eastern and Australasian regions. Evidence from diaries reveals frightening journeys to Australia – enduring endless gales on fully rigged ships with wind whistling through the sails, and decks pounded by heavy seas while passengers hunkered below decks in steerage. Regardless of weather, life at sea was extremely dangerous for infants and toddlers. Over the years, conditions on board improved. Although some diaries of shipboard life written by working-class people have survived, most diaries were written by those who were wealthier and better educated.

The role of surgeon-superintendent was pivotal to the well-being of passengers. Food was specially planned to cater to the passengers. Children aged between one and four years were to receive preserved meat instead of salt meat every day; also ¼ pint of preserved milk. Every alternate day, they were to receive one egg or two teaspoonfuls of condensed egg. Children under one year were allowed three pints of water daily, and those over four months ¼ pint of milk; also preserved soup and the egg ration just mentioned. For babies in arms (as was my little ancestor on the *Jessie Munn*), the surgeon would recommend other fluids. Breastfeeding was the optimal source of nutrition.

Arrival in Queensland

When a vessel moored, there would often be a journalist who boarded from the launch to obtain the captain's report of the voyage. The reporters read the journal of the surgeon – and very interesting details appeared in the newspapers during the following days. If the ship had a notifiable disease, it was placed in quarantine until the authorities were sure that all passengers were free of contagious diseases. There were no incidences on this voyage.

The *Jessie Munn* arrived in Moreton Bay after 91 days at sea but remained offshore for five days in bad weather. The immigrants' experience was quite woeful once they reached shore. Miss Isabella Mayhan, who arrived with her sister, wrote to her family two weeks after arrival: "It was not as good as a barn, no windows in it, neither was it floored, merely the bare ground, and had two large doors, and contained two tables and forms. There were 32 beds, for 132 girls, but the worst of it is they drove us in like so many cattle and locked us up. Of course we could not get anything to eat and had nothing since breakfast."

A journalist reported: "On viewing the number to be accommodated within the shed, and considering the state of the thermometer, was forcibly suggestive of the Black Hole of Calcutta". Numerous advertisements in the *Courier* illustrated merchants selling horses and other equipment and drays for hire.

On the day after the immigrants arrived, 15 seamen off the *Jessie Munn* were charged with disobeying orders on board. The case came before the Water Police Magistrate. They had a couple of months in detention, returned to the *Jessie Munn*, then escaped with all the

provisions on the tender. Their boat overturned, and food became spoiled, and they landed on Moreton Island suffering from hunger and waiting to be picked up by the Water Police.

According to the 1861 census, Brisbane's population was 6,051. My Milne family would have caught a boat to take them to Ipswich and to George's job. Wonderful resources are available in repositories online, in Trove and in libraries. So many letters are available, and newspaper articles depict first-hand experiences – and it is out there for all to access.

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Amang the Millionaires: Bertie Forbes on Wall Street

– *Wall Street!? Faur's at? Is 't i Broch?*

– *Na, it's Peterheid, ahin the fitba grun!*

The name Forbes has one syllable, but many in the North-East give it two: “For-bes”.

Once in a generation, from the humblest of backgrounds, is born a child so talented, confident and driven that he becomes a leader in his field and an example to all. A famous example was Andrew Carnegie, born in Dunfermline, head of the largest steel firm in the USA, who had so much money that he disposed of the excess in philanthropy. He sold out to US financier and banker J. Pierpont Morgan – later to rent the house, next to Gannochy Bridge at Edzell, where first the king and later Neville Chamberlain were invited for shooting.



Fedderate Castle, New Deer

In 1840, Robert Forbes was born, fourth child of eight, at Keithack, a 46-acre farm near Dufftown; to sustain 10 people from this small property can't have been easy. He became a tailor; in 1871, boarding in New Deer, he married Agnes Moir. By 1881, at Hillhead, Mill of Fedderate, there were six children. Robert, quoted as tailor, clothier and merchant, but having no regular income, aimed to enhance it by trading from his home, selling beer. Out in the country, he was poorly placed for business.

Bertie Charles Forbes, the sixth of his 10 children, was born in 1880. There were far more schools than today, as children had to walk or cycle there. Whitehill School must have served only farm children who mostly aspired no further than “a pair o' horse”. The headmaster, at this school for all his career, commented that Bertie “had a way with words”. He was Gavin Grieg, MA (1856–1914), collector of Buchan songs and ballads never before arranged. “Mormond Braes and Strichen Toon” was typical. He was a musician, related to the Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg (1843–1907); and he wrote the play *Mains's Woonin*, highly popular among country folk before the First World War.

By 1901, the Forbes family was at 94 Rosemount Place in Aberdeen, a better place for tailoring. All but the eldest were still at home – and working, so the family finances were improved; but how did 13 people (including a grandchild and a servant) all fit in, unless the flat was very large?

Aged 13, Bertie had begun teaching himself shorthand; his first job was at the *Peterhead Sentinel* as typesetter and compositor. Already showing his driving ambition, in 1897 he progressed to become a reporter on the *Dundee Courier*, attending evening classes at University College, St Andrews. He moved to South Africa (1901–4), reporting for the *Standard and Digger*, aimed at the diamond industry, and the *Rand Daily Times*, edited by Edgar Wallace (English writer of mystery books). He returned to Scotland with money in his pocket. Next target: centre point of America's financial world, Wall Street.

In 1904, Bertie left Scotland again, offering to work for nothing as reporter on the *Journal of Commerce*, where he exposed underhand events in the silk trade. This move, which would have been unlikely by an American, proved a success, and soon a salary came his way. Next, William Randolph Hearst, publisher of the *New York American*, engaged

Bertie, who in 1917 gave up employment to manage his own business. This saw the start of *Forbes Magazine* – very successful, though a title seemingly today without charisma.

His magazine dealt with finance, business, industry, investing and marketing. Although it was expensive to do so, Bertie lived originally in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, owned by the Astors (later in England), this being where he could best meet the giant figures of the financial world. These are a few of his associates, all Wall Street heavyweights:

- Thomas Edison (1847–1931), America's greatest inventor – electricity, sound recording, films
- W. Randolph Hearst (1863–1951): newspapers, business, politics; built castle in California
- Herbert Hoover (1874–1964), mining engineer, multi-millionaire; 31st US President
- John D. Rockefeller (1839–1937), founder of Standard Oil; philanthropist.

On visits back home, as a mark of affection for his origins, Bertie organised lavish picnics held around Whitehill School. He would stay at Cruden Bay Hotel – an upmarket venture by the railway company but doomed by the climate to failure. Later, he was assisted by his sons Bruce and Malcolm. Bertie died in 1954 and was buried in the USA but later re-interred at Culsh, New Deer, from which the whole of rural Buchan can be seen.



Monument at Culsh



View from Hill of Culsh, New Deer

Frugality was once considered a Scottish virtue: buy only when you can afford it, and never get into debt. Malcolm, the son (1919–90), a colourful figure, was extravagant on a monumental scale. He owned a mansion in London full of art, a château in France, a palace in Tangiers, a South Sea island, around 77 motorcycles and nine Fabergé eggs; he flew 1,000 guests to a party in Tangiers. He had a yacht, *Highlander*, and a Boeing 727. He was an expert balloonist. Elizabeth Taylor attended his funeral, having had a brief relationship. Of course, he could afford all this and probably saw it as investment. His brother Bruce, a less colourful figure, died at only 48.

In 2014, the magazine was sold to an oriental group, but a legal case ensued when they defaulted on repayments. Malcolm's London house fetched £12m and the art within £5m. Château de Balleroy, Normandy; Laucala Island, Fiji, now a high-class resort; the toy collection and the motorcycles, airliner and yacht – all were sold.

- *Y' ken, Geordie, ere i weeken' I've hardly a bawbee left in ma pooch; bit yon American billies, they're a' millionaires!*
- *Fit ye'll hae te dee, Wullie, is: seen's ye're riggit i morn's mornin, gyang up tae Hilly's an' sik a rise fae 'im.*

From Woodside to the Hundred Acre Wood: An Unexpected Journey

In Journal 143 (May 2017), I wrote about a relative who left Aberdeenshire in 1865 to become a missionary in distant Madagascar. In researching her experiences, I had made use of a register of missionaries published by the London Missionary Society (LMS) which is now freely accessible online. So, when trying to track down someone different who was known to have spent time in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), it occurred to me that the lady in question might just have gone there on missionary work. My hopes were dashed on finding no reference to her in the register – but, while scanning the names of other missionaries, I happened upon two whose details looked familiar.

William Milne, born in 1814 at Woodside in Rothiemay, Banffshire, and James Milne, born in 1819 also at Woodside, were recorded in the LMS register as having undertaken missionary work in Jamaica. The details tallied with two names in my family-history database which had not yet been followed up – and my curious nature took over. The brief biographies in the register indicated that James had devoted his entire life to his work in Jamaica, where he died in 1873. His elder brother William, however, had apparently returned to the UK in 1849, having married in Jamaica and produced two sons.

A search of the 1851 census led to the discovery of an expanding Milne family in the Hertfordshire village of Baldock, where William was described as “Independent Minister, MA”, and his wife Harriet was a governess, born in Salisbury, Wiltshire. William’s birthplace is simply shown as “Scotland”, but there is no mistaking the fact that his elder sons, John Vine Milne and Robert Milne, were born in Jamaica. A third son, Alexander, had been born in Baldock just four months before the census date.

Excited at the discovery of previously unknown relatives, and the possibility of finding younger children, I did a fast-forward to 1861. Now an “Inspector of Schools” in the London suburb of Tottenham, William was clearly moving up in the world. This time, his birthplace was precisely recorded as Rothiemay. Three more children had arrived since the Baldock days, their birthplaces indicating brief stays in St Albans and Bushey.

According to the LMS register, William died in 1874 – and my searches of English registers revealed that Harriet survived her husband by only four years. Although they were therefore alive in 1871, FindMyPast and Ancestry initially refused to divulge their whereabouts. Thanks to the ingenuity of an ANESFHS volunteer, they eventually showed up at Braintree in Essex, where William was once again a schoolmaster.

In the 1881 census, I had no trouble finding John Vine Milne, who had established himself as a schoolmaster at Henley House in affluent Hampstead. By this time, John and his wife Sarah were parents of two young children, David and Kenneth. The immediate household included John’s brother Alexander, now a schoolmaster, as well as Sarah’s mother Sarah Heginbotham, whose roots were in Derbyshire. The full census listing gives the names of four domestic servants, as well as a dozen or more scholars. Little had I dreamed that my own relatives were moving in such elevated circles! Their lives could hardly have been more different from those of my direct Milne ancestors, who at this time were eking out a living in New Pitsligo.

But there were more discoveries in store ...

The 1891 census schedule indicates that Henley House School occupied two houses, where John was now employing two teaching staff. Alan A. Milne, aged 9, is the newest

member of the family and a “Scholar” (school pupil) like his two elder brothers. With eight more scholars listed, they have plenty of young company, as well as a cook, housemaid, parlourmaid and a footman to attend to their needs.

FindMyPast didn’t co-operate with my attempts to trace John and Sarah in 1901, but the resourceful ANESFHS volunteer again succeeded in running them to ground. Still a schoolmaster, John was now managing a school at Streete Court, Westgate-on-Sea in Thanet, Kent. Meanwhile, John’s brother Alexander was also doing very well for himself, as “Principal of Boys’ Private School” at Hastings in Sussex. The full schedule for University School in Holmesdale Gardens extends to two census pages, including numerous teaching and domestic staff, as well as a couple of dozen boarding pupils. Alexander was by now married to Georgiana, and their home was shared with their four small daughters and a nephew, Alan, an undergraduate at Cambridge.

By 1911, John Vine Milne and his wife Sarah had settled into retirement in the splendidly named Essex village of Steeple Bumpstead. A couple of domestic servants shared their home; and they had a French-born visitor. The final member of the household was their youngest son, Alan Alexander Milne (1882–1956), a journalist aged 29, who was working on his own account, as well as for *Punch*. He was to make a name for himself as A. A. Milne, who created the “Winnie the Pooh” stories for his son, Christopher Robin Milne. The Hundred Acre Wood was the setting for many of the well-known adventures of Pooh and his friends.

What a journey of discovery in a single afternoon! A. A. Milne and my grandfather were third cousins. If you have Milne ancestors from Woodside in Rothiemay, you could also be connected. Maybe it’s time for a Milne family reunion and a game of Pooh sticks?

Sources consulted

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