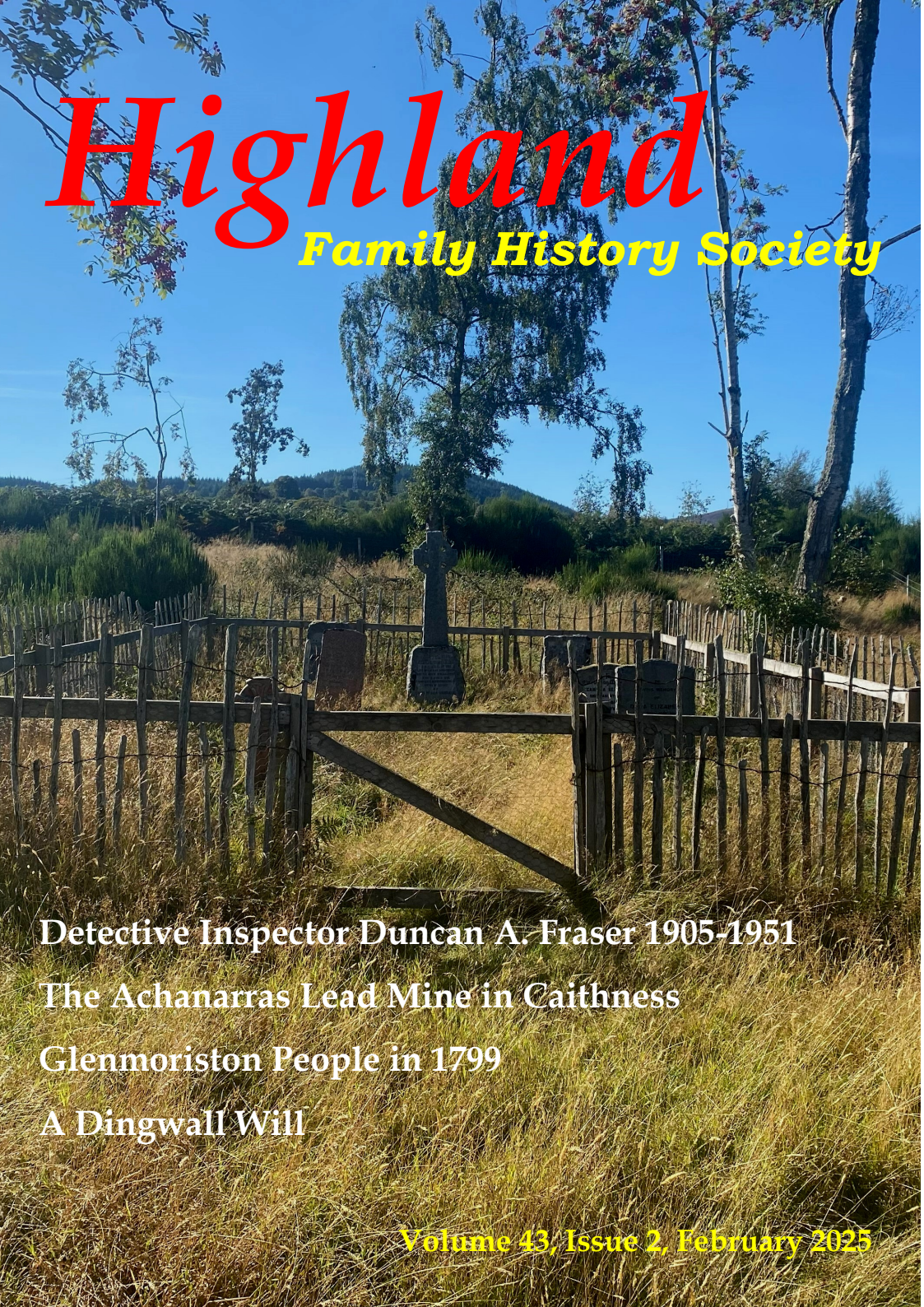




Highland

Family History Society

Detective Inspector Duncan A. Fraser 1905-1951

The Achanarras Lead Mine in Caithness

Glenmoriston People in 1799

A Dingwall Will

Volume 43, Issue 2, February 2025



highland family history society

Comunn Sloinntearachd na Gaidhealtachd

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Cover Photo: Ord Burial Ground by Angus Bethune

CONTENTS

Editorial	3
News	4
The Head Men of the Highlands in 1513	5
A Lead Mine at Achanarras in Caithness	6
Detective Inspector Duncan A. Fraser	11
A Dingwall Will	14
Officers of the Lochaber Fencibles in 1799	16
Glenmoriston People in 1799	17

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Editorial

As reported on the News page, our colleague Jonathan McColl has had to resign from the Committee to concentrate on other commitments. Among those is his role as Chairman of the Dingwall Museum Trust, and I know he in particular will appreciate the Dingwall Will featured in this Journal. While researching in the Dingwall Sheriff Court Register of Deeds, from which that will comes, I was able to photograph the index pages to each volume, and I intend (when I get the time) to transcribe them for publication in the Journal.

The Dingwall SC Register of Deeds is just one of the many sets of Highland records in Edinburgh which it would be nice to see transferred to the Highland Archive Centre here in Inverness, or to the relevant outstations in Lochaber, Skye, or Caithness. The HAC's size and facilities – especially the Conservation Studio – were designed, so we were told when it was being planned, to allow for the transfer and care of valuable and fragile documents that rightly belong up here; but such is the power of the nation's capital that it's unlikely we'll ever see many moving. As a Highland genealogist it's bad enough having to spend time & money travelling to Edinburgh to research documents relating to Highland sheriff courts; but as a Mackenzie, it's particularly frustrating having to make such journeys – and, inevitably when doing detailed research, having to cough up capital prices for accommodation – in order to access the Seaforth and Cromartie papers (and I know the current Cabarfeidh would also like to see the latter return north).

Of course one sometimes has to travel even further – to another, and even more expensive capital – when in search of records relating to Highlanders; especially those who served in the British armed forces. I've included in this issue of the Journal a list of the officers of the Lochaber Fencibles when they were raised in 1799. It comes from *The London Gazette*, a source which thankfully is now available online [www.thegazette.co.uk], but if you wanted to see the names of the NCOs and Privates who served in the regiment for the four years of its existence, you would need to go to The National Archives and look at the regimental muster rolls [TNA/WO13/3886-3889]. The TNA at Kew is a great place to work, but it's a long way from Inverness.

However, more military records are now being digitised and put online, usually though Pay-per-View sites like Ancestry or Find My Past. I recently had the good fortune to find for a client the discharge papers on Find-My-Past of a Private Angus McMillan who had served 20 years in the Cameron Highlanders during the Napoleonic Wars, and in doing so had earned the Waterloo Medal; the first such decoration to be awarded to all the participants, of whatever rank, in a particular battle. His Australian descendant had no idea his ancestor had served for so long in the army and had won such a decoration; and needless to say he was thrilled to learn of it.

Graeme Mackenzie.

NEWS

Upcoming talks at 2.30pm upstairs in Highland Archive Centre

20 February – David Fraser: ‘Cnocan Burraidh – The Grant Burial Ground Drumnadrochit; The Families and its Restoration.’

20 March – Diana Hamilton-Jones: ‘James Braidwood – Father of the Modern Fire Service’. *This talk will be preceded by our AGM at 2pm.*

At both talks we will again have a sale of second-hand books and some older stock as well as all our new and recent publications being available.

New Books:

Kilchrist MIs – Survey of the churchyard of Kilchrist, Muir of Ord, in Urray. 52 pages with 435 stones recorded (including those inside the Mackenzie vault) with colour A3 plan. £8 plus postage & packing.

Tarbat Free Church Births & Baptisms 1843-1862 & 1873-1899

112 pages. £8 plus postage & packing.

You can order all our books online at the HFHS stand on **GenFair**:

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

Call for New Committee Members:

With Jonathan McColl’s recent departure from the committee, we need some new recruits. Since most of our business is conducted by email these days, it’s no longer essential for committee members to live close to Inverness. We also schedule any in-person meetings for the early afternoon, so people can come from some distance and get home the same day. A little knowledge of family history and a willingness to communicate with others interested in it are all that is required. If you would like help, please email us as follows.

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

NEW MEMBERS

2910. Mrs. E. M. Vargas.

2911. Mr. A. Price.

2912. Mr. D. Mackay.

2914. T. Lenski.

2915. Mr. M. Haigh.

2916. Mr. Harry Graham

RESIGNATIONS

2794. Mrs J. Harris

The Head Men of the Highlands in 1513

One of the best sources for early modern family history in the Highlands are the records of the Scottish Government's attempts to regulate the clans and to keep order in the north. The Privy Council, which emerged in the 16th century from the medieval King's Council, became the chief instrument of government, and many otherwise unrecorded Highlanders appear in the multiple volumes of its Register [RPC] which run from 1545 to 1707. All the volumes down to 1691 have been transcribed and published in book form, and now the registers for the remaining fifteen years are being published online, with a searchable database, in a project run jointly by the Universities of Stirling and Dundee; for which see: <https://spsr.ac.uk/>.

A judicial arm of the old King's Council also emerged in the late 15th and early 16th century—which in due course became the Court of Session—and some of its early records were published as "The Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes". The following extract from the second of these sources shows the government trying to control the Highlands by using the power of its great nobles and clan chiefs [ADC, III, 7-8].

In it, I have kept the spellings of the published transcription (since they reinforce how the spellings of names varied so much in those days—and indeed down to the 19th century), but I have added some punctuation to help understand who was responsible for what. I have also suggested, in brackets, what some of the more unusual names or titles may mean [Ed].

10 January 1512/13: The Heid Men to take the rule of the northland.

Memorandum thir ar the heidis men that sall tak the reule of the northland apoun thame and to ansuer to the kingis grace and lordis of counsale tharfor ilkane within that awin boundis undir writin: that is to say, for the landis of Cathnes, the erle of Cathnes, the lard of Innerrugy, and the lard of Berydaile; for the landis of Stranavarne, M^cKy; for the reule of Sutherland, my lord bischop of Cathnes; for the reule of Ross, the lard of Balnagoune in the est part, for the west end of Ross, M^cKenze and the lard of Foulis; for the Ard, McKymme [MacShimidh—i.e. Lovat]; Abirterff and Straquherit, the lord Lovat; for Straglasch, Chesholme; for Urquhart and Glenmorishene, John the Grant; for Bonoch Bonochar [Benchar?], Petty, Brachly, Stratherne, and Strathnarne, my lord Huntlie [to whom, presumably, Macintosh was then bound]; for Lochabir, Ewyn Allanson [Lochiel] and William Laichlanson [Macintosh, who then still held—in theory, if not in practice—the old Clan Chattan lands of Glenloy and Loch Arkaigside]; for Baidzenach, my lord Gordoun; for Strathspey, Glencharny, and Abirnethy, Johnne the Grant; for all the laich of Murray, my lord of Huntlie; for Strathdoun, and all uthir landis that pertenis to my said lord Huntlie, he to ansuer tharfor within the said bondis

A Lead Mine at Achanarras, Spittal, Caithness

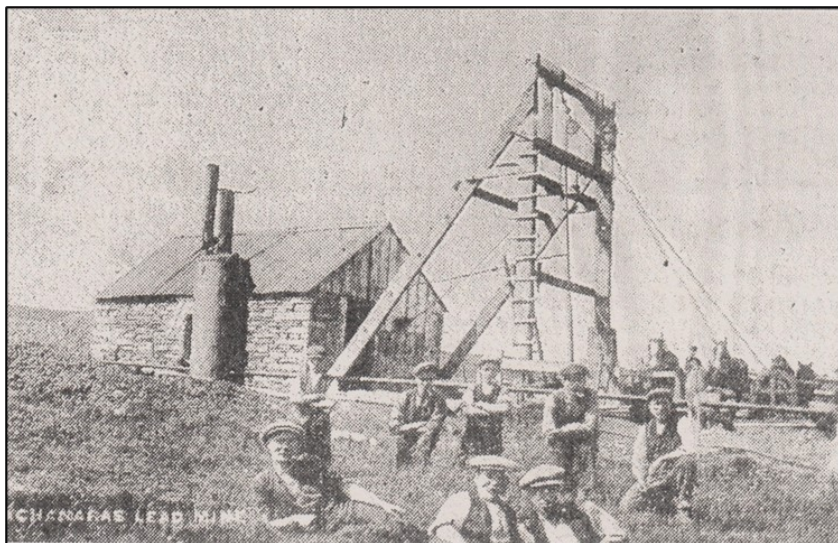
By Stuart Farrell

An article in The Northern Times newspaper of 25 October 1917 describing a lead mine in Caithness was the starting point of the author's research. Chance findings such as this in newspaper files often trigger further study; however the growing number of digitised newspapers on sites such as the British Newspaper archive will mean that in future researchers will be able to make discoveries such as this much more easily. The article is worth quoting in full as it gives a first-hand account of mining conditions as they existed in 1917.

"Lead Mining in Caithness. Visit to Works at Achanarras. Most people in Caithness have seen a flagstone quarry, and more than likely have explored every nook and corner of it. But how many have been down a coal mine or lead mine? Not many, I should think. Going down into a quarry hole you can reach the lowest depth by easy access, and you can have the blue sky above you always, and you feel safe. But going down a mine is something widely and altogether different. And yet this experience is now within reach of the dwellers in these northern regions. My advice to all who have a "day off" is to pay a visit to the Achanarras Lead Mine.

Where is the Mine? To those who don't know let me tell where the mine is to be found. It is situated on the face of the hill on Achanarras Farm, overlooking the low ground between it and the Spittal and Georgemas road, and distant from it rather more than half a mile. It is about three miles from Georgemas Junction and the same distance from Halkirk Station. Coming from the direction of either of these places, you pass Achanarras Farm House, the kindly inmates of which will willingly direct you on the right way.

The Manager. I had the pleasure and the profit of visiting the mine the other day and was warmly welcomed by the genial and capable manager, Mr Stanners. One glance at the manger tells you are in the presence of a model British workman. The clear cut features, the well knit figure and the boundless energy all proclaim that here is a man who knows his work and can do it. Mr Stanners is an expert miner, and what he doesn't know of the business is not worth knowing. More than that, in a social capacity, he can crack a good joke, tell a good story and sing a good song, and all together is a "jolly good fellow."



Achannarras Lead Mine. *Courtesy of The Northern Times.*

The Mine. On the occasion of my visit, above ground, a workman was hard at work pushing a "bogie" loaded with rubbish along a set of rails leading to the "tip" over which the rubbish was "tipped." The rubbish, as well as the valuable ore is hauled up to the top by an engine. The mine is a vertical shaft sixty feet deep, the opening being about twelve feet by six. The shaft is portioned into three divisions - one for hauling up the ore, etc., another occupied by a steam pump which works day and night, and the other the workmen's access to the mine.

"Will you go down?" says the manager to me. "Is it safe?" says I. "Yes, perfectly safe." Was the reassuring reply. "Come on."

I screwed my courage to the sticking point, and I can tell you it is a case of "sticking" on to the ladders with hands and feet. I descended one ladder and reached a platform, where I breather freely; down another ladder, to another platform, where I breathed as before; down a third ladder and I reached the point where a horizontal "drive" branches off. I entered the "drive." I was now in the heart of the earth forty feet from the top and daylight. It was total darkness, but preceded by the manager with a lighted candle, I followed on as best I could. The "drive" is a cutting about six feet square, strongly supported on the roof and sides with battens. At the present time it extends to about 300 feet into the heart of the hill. Along the bottom of the "drive" runs a set of rails on which "bogies" run between the shaft end of this "drive" and the working face. Imagine a railway in the heart of Achanarras Hill! I

scrambled along on what seemed to me "a long, long trail a-winding." Rounding a bend in the "drive" I saw, though the Egyptian darkness, several candles twinkling in the distance, while various weird forms were flitting to and fro, casting shadows fearful and wonderful. It was a scene unique in the county of Caithness. A minute more and I was at the working face, where the men were busy with mining operations.

"How are you getting on, lads?" I asked. "Not too bad," came the cheery reply from an experienced miner. I may explain that "not too bad" in miner's language means "very good, indeed."

I had the honour of mining a bit of lead which I carried home as a memento of my most interesting experience. The men were preparing a blasting charge, all being ready the manager started the fuse, and we all made off at head long route for the safe end of the drive, which we reached in less time than it takes to write it. We listened, and although I was expecting it, the dull booming sound, as the earth shook, made me jump off my feet, to the hilarious merriment of the experienced miners. There was no going back to the "face" that day, as the fumes had to clear away.

We all reached the top in safety, and when I saw Spittal Hill looming before me, I realised I was still in Caithness.

As I said before, to all interested, take a holiday and visit the lead mine, and I will guarantee you a warm welcome from the manager and an experience which will last you a lifetime."

But how did the mine get started? A number of contemporary sources provide additional information. The Valuation Rolls for the County of Caithness, 1917-1918 and that for the next few years under the parish of Halkirk listed the landowner as Colonel William Murray Thriepand DSO of Fingask and Toftingall, Fingask Castle, Errol, Perthshire, with the tenant of The Toftingall Lead Syndicate Ltd, 34 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh with a rateable value of £100.

The Geological Survey of Scotland (Wilson, 1920, 114) noted the mine as follows:

"... this vein, as noted by Dr. Crampton, began to attract notice in 1912. Shortly afterwards work was started on it. The mine was visited by Mr. G. V. Wilson in 1915. At that time the workings were mainly on the surface of the vein. He reported that the vein has a north-west course and is nearly vertical; its width is about 5ft., of which 1ft. consists of dirty white barytes, and 1ft. 6in. of broken stuff with galena; the remainder is made up of crushed country rocks, which are reddish-grey, drab and bluish Caithness flagstones.

Mining operations were continued on a small scale for several years. A shaft was sunk and drives were made on the vein; galena was the only mineral sought for, and the product of the mine was carted to Georgemas

Junction, where it was put on rail. In August 1919 the mine was visited again, and it was found that operations had ceased; the shaft was full of water, but most of the gear remained and seemed in good order. From the heaps of ore lying around the shaft it was ascertained that galena occurred mostly in the form of lumps or crystalline nodules embedded in barytes, calcite and rusty iron oxides.

In the List of Mines, published in the Home Office Reports, this mine appears as active in the years 1917 and 1918 under the ownership of the Toftingall Lead Syndicate; seven or eight men were employed at it."

On the 9 February 1921 upon an extraordinary general meeting held at 34 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh and ratified on the 25th of February 1921, it was agreed that the company be wound up. Liquidator S. W. Murphy, Chartered Accountant was appointed. In a letter to Companies House in 1946, for the removal of the company name from the Register of Companies, the liquidator noted that the company was 'forced to close down for lack of further funds. There were no assets in the liquidation other than some plant on the ground which is derelict and has no realisable value.'

The reason for keeping the company open was if some other party was interested in starting the mine, and it was noted that on occasions several discussions were held with interested parties, even noting that visits were made to Toftingall but to no avail. Noted in letter that the last meeting of shareholders took place in March 1922. The Toftingall Syndicate Limited was advertised to be removed under the Companies Act of 1929 in The Edinburgh Gazette of 5th March 1948, and was finally removed from the Register of Companies three months later (The Edinburgh Gazette 8 June 1948, page 262).

Sources in the Caithness Archives provide more information on the mine and are a reminder to check all possible sources not just those online or in the National Records of Scotland. Included in the papers was a newspaper cutting from the Northern Ensign of 18 April 1916 on the mines operation giving more detail than of the visit above. Of particular interest was a Statement by the Chairman Mr W. Stevenson at the first Annual General Meeting on 22nd October 1915 which gives background details to the mine's operation.

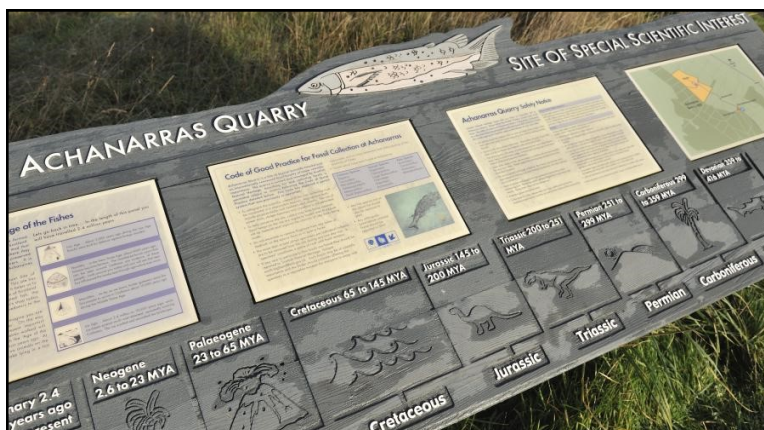
This report differed from the Directors' report printed for the General Meeting which made no mention on the topic of shortages of labour due to the War. After the war in 1920 it was noted that the resources of the company were 'exhausted' and the need for additional subscribed capital and even with the price of lead then at £40 per ton compared to £14 pre-war but the following year the company was wound up.

Correspondence in the Caithness Archives indicates that the demise of the Toftingall Syndicate Ltd after World War One was not the end of the story. Between 1932 and 1937, and in 1947 and again between 1954 and 1956 letters

survive of the possibility of reopening the mine but nothing was forthcoming.

Overall through the successive share registers and successive share issues, the company records indicate that the mine was never profitable with operating costs far exceeding sales. No explanation is given in the Company's returns for the failure of the mine and its mining operations, but it was not the lack of capital or investors. Was it the lack of lead ore in the mine? Was it due to the lack of labour due the First World War? Was this a factor in its demise or was it just because it did not make a profit?

Today the site and history of the mine is largely unknown, with the area of Spittal known more for its quarries for Caithness stone and the nature reserve famous for its fossil fish [www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/visit-our-nature-reserves/achanarras-quarry-nature-reserve]



Sources

Caithness Archives, Wick, P327 Toftingall Leadmine.

National Records of Scotland, BT2/9237 Toftingall Syndicate Ltd.

National Records of Scotland Valuation Rolls for the County of Caithness 1917-1918; 1918-1919 and 1919-1920.

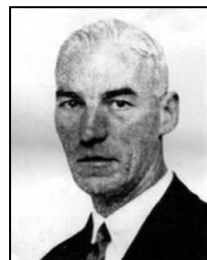
The Edinburgh Gazette, 8 June 1948, p.262.

The Northern Times, 25 October 1917.

Wilson, G V, Special Reports on the Mineral Resources of Great Britain Vol. XVIII – The Lead, Zinc, Copper and Nickel Ores of Scotland. (Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Scotland, HMSO, 1920) p.114.

Stuart's original article included detailed lists of share prices, share-holders, and members of the board, but since hardly any of them were Highlanders I have omitted these lists. The full article, with all the lists, can however be sent to any members who are interested [Editor].

Detective Inspector Duncan A. Fraser 1905-1951



Patrick W. Anderson, FSA Scot.

In 1966 I was appointed Constable in the West Riding Constabulary, and discovered that at their Wakefield Headquarters there is a Memorial to all the West Riding officers murdered on duty. It shows that in 1951 two Police Officers were shot and murdered, and that one of them was a Detective Inspector Duncan Alexander Fraser who came from Inverness, so I took an interest in this police murder. I never thought that during my 30 years policing I would have known an officer murdered on duty!

Recently my wife and I visited the cemetery at Tomnahurich (The Hill of the Fairies). Whilst there, we visited the grave of Detective Inspector Fraser, who was only 46 when he was murdered (Class 4, Section H 17, No. 58). The headstone in the well-kept cemetery is of white marble and it reads:

*In Loving Memory of
A Beloved Husband and Daddy
Det. Inspector Duncan A. Fraser
Died 15th July 1951
At Kirkheaton, Huddersfield.*

Duncan Alexander Fraser, known as "Sandy" to his family and friends, was the son of Duncan Fraser, Proprietor of the Northern Hotel, Inverness. He attended Inverness High School and, in 1919, joined the famous local regiment, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. He served with the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment at the Regimental Depot at Cameron Barracks in Inverness, before the battalion moved to Dreghorn Camp, Edinburgh, and then, in September of that year, to Aldershot as the Home Service Battalion of the Regiment. During May 1920, the Battalion moved to Queenstown, Ireland, with detachments in the small towns around Cork. In February 1922, when the Republic of Ireland came into being, the Battalion returned to Aldershot where they formed part of the 1st Guards Brigade. In October 1923, they went to Germany for service with the British Army on the Rhine, and were stationed at Mullheim and, from the end of 1924, at Wiesbaden. In November 1926, the Battalion returned to Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, providing the Guard of Honour when the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle was opened by the Prince of Wales on 14 July 1927.

During February 1928 the Battalion formed the ceremonial procession for the funeral of Field Marshal Earl Haig with the Scots Greys. Then in June they carried out an interesting exercise when they sailed from Edinburgh to Fort George on the Battleship HMS Rodney and the Battlecruisers HMS Renown. After exercises with the 2nd Battalion Black Watch the Camerons returned to Edinburgh on foot, marching 250 miles. On the way, in Lochaber, they paraded before Lochiel at Achnacarry and visited Erracht, the home of Lt General Sir Alan Cameron, who had raised the regiment in 1791.

On the 2 October 1929, the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders provided the ceremonial troops for the reunion of the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church, but Duncan Fraser would by then have been on the Reserve List, having completed his military service and joined the Police. He was appointed Police Constable Number 1457 in the West Riding Constabulary on 15 April 1929, and posted to the county's Huddersfield Division (the town of Huddersfield then had its own Borough Police Force). In January 1941, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and four years later was transferred to the County Headquarters in Wakefield. From there he was seconded to No. 3 District Training School, at Pannal Ash, near Harrogate, and in February 1946 he was promoted to Inspector. On 23 November 1947 he became the Detective Inspector at Huddersfield.

During 1951 many premises—mills, warehouses, offices, and shops—were broken into during the night. DI Fraser had his suspicions, so a farmhouse was put under observation. At 11pm on 14 July, a briefing at Headquarters was attended by DCI Jenkins, DI Fraser, DS Butler, and seven uniformed PCs, who then moved to create a cordon around Whinney Close Farm, Kirkheaton. All was quiet for the first two hours, but just before 2.00am voices were heard, followed by five shots. DCI Jenkins flashed his torch in the direction of DI Fraser but there was no answering signal. PC Sellick ran to the direction of the shots and noticed there was no sign of DI Fraser. He ran to where PC Jagger should have been, and found DI Fraser dead with his lighted torch beside him, and close by, PC Jagger clutching his stomach in pain. Police investigations continued, but PC Jagger died later in hospital.



DI Fraser's Funeral Procession in Inverness



**Detective Inspector
Duncan Alexander Fraser's
grave in Tomnahurich**

On 18 July 1951, a memorial service for DI Fraser was held in Kirkheaton Parish Church in the West Riding. Following this, the body was taken to Inverness where, during the morning of Friday 20 July, a service was held at the West Church. This was attended by Sir Frank Brook, HM Inspector of Constabulary, along with Superintendent Foster of the West Riding, family members, friends from Duncan Fraser's Inverness school days, members of the Inverness Burgh Police, and members of his old regiment, including Lt Col B. C. Methuen, whose soldier servant Duncan Fraser had been in Germany. Pipe Major R. Mackay played a lament at the graveside in the Tomnahurich Cemetery.

DI Fraser had been very proud of his service in the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders. He had been involved with the Regimental Association during the years after his military service, and was involved in establishing a Regimental Club in Inverness. It had been his intention to complete his 25 years service in the Police in 1953, and then to retire to his roots and run the family hotel in Inverness; but sadly that was not to be. His widow Catherine, a daughter of the late John Fraser of the Glenalbyn Hotel, Inverness, and their 13 year old daughter Patricia, survived the Detective Inspector.

Alfred Moore was tried for the murders of DI Fraser and PC Jagger in December 1951. He was convicted and sentenced to death. The names of DI Duncan Alexander Fraser and PC 1117 Albert Jagger of the West Riding Constabulary were subsequently listed on the Roll of Honour of the Police Remembrance Trust. DI Fraser is not listed on the Scottish Police Memorial Trust as he was serving in an English Police Force when he was killed.

Personal Postscript.

Due to my lack of height, I was unable to join the Angus Constabulary or any other Scottish Police Force in 1966, so I joined the West Riding Constabulary as their minimum height was 5ft 8inches. I think that height was in place for many decades before, and I wonder why Duncan Fraser chose to join the West Riding Constabulary. It may have been because both his parents and his wife's parents owned Hotels in Inverness, that he chose to serve in Yorkshire. I moved to the Lanarkshire Constabulary in 1970 and, sadly, during 1976, I attended the funeral of a colleague, Constable George Taylor, then of Strathclyde Police, who was murdered on duty at Carstairs. In 1979, I transferred back to the West Yorkshire Police, and in 1979 I was promoted to Sergeant. I later retired after 30 years of service.

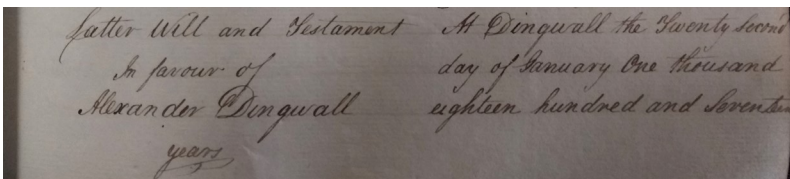
A Dingwall Will

If your name was Dingwall and you were a descendant of the Donald Dingwall who died in Dingwall in 1817, you might learn from the Monumental Inscription on his gravestone in St Clement's Churchyard (transcribed and published by the HFHS in 2002) that he was "late of Demerara" and that he had "departed this life on the 6th day of January in the 47 year of his age"; and, courtesy of the note that Jonathan McColl added to this entry, that he was a "House Carpenter late of Borvie". The MI also tells us the gravestone was erected by his brother Alexander Dingwall of Greenock. The sharp-eyed reader of these MIs would also note the previous stone in our listing (number 40) which is for Alexander Dingwall, smith in Dingwall, and Christian Rose his spouse "who were happy in life now lye together beneath this stone which is erected to their memory by Alexander Dingwall of Greenock, their youngest son, in 1817".

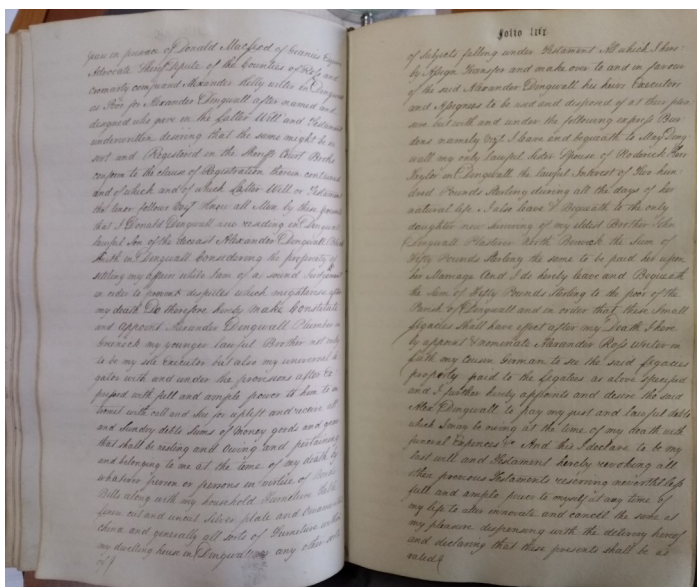
Your next step might be to look on ScotlandsPeople for a testament, with will or inventory, for Donald Dingwall. Such a search however would draw a blank because, while it turns out he did leave a will, it was not registered in the Commissary Court for Ross and Cromarty, which dealt with most testaments before 1824 and whose records are those indexed and digitised for Scotlands People (the originals in the National Records of Scotland [NRS] are CC19).

Donald Dingwall's will appears in the Dingwall Sheriff Court Register of Deeds—also held in Edinburgh [NRS/SC25/59/1]—which sadly have not been indexed or digitised, and I came across it quite by chance when searching for something else. I thought however that it was worth copying since it's a great example of such an informative record being somewhere other than where it might be expected; though, it is by no means uncommon to find wills in registers of deeds, burgh, county, or general (i.e. national).

The first thing to note is that the heading for this will—shown below (and it appears in the register at the bottom of a page)—names not it's maker, but its chief beneficiary, Alexander Dingwall. The rest of the entry takes up the following two pages—as shown on the next page here—though the will itself, made on 28 November 1816, is only part of it; the rest recording its actual registration on 22 June 1817.



*Letter Will and Testament At Dingwall the Twenty second
In favour of day of January One thousand
Alexander Dingwall eighteen hundred and sixteen
years*



The will tells us that the maker was “Donald Dingwall, now residing in Dingwall, lawful son of the deceast Alexander Dingwall, Blacksmith in Dingwall” and that he does “hereby make, constitute and appoint Alexander Dingwall, Plumber in Greenock, my younger lawful brother, not only to be my sole Executor but also my universal legator ... but with and under the following express Burdens ...” which are legacies to be left to his only lawful sister May Dingwall, spouse of Roderick Kerr, Taylor in Dingwall, and the [un-named] only surviving daughter of his eldest brother John Dingwall, Plasterer in North Berwick. Finally he appoints his cousin german, Alexander Ross, Writer in Leith, to see that the said legacies are properly paid.

All of this illustrates how widely travelled and settled the family of a Dingwall blacksmith could become in the early 19th century: Demerara (now part of Guyana, on the north east coast of South America), Greenock, North Berwick, and Leith; and, it turns out Fife, since the index to testaments on ScotlandsPeople shows that when Alexander Dingwall, plumber in Greenock died in 1819, he was living in Aberdour, and that his testament was registered in the Commissary Court of Dunkeld (in Perthshire). I haven’t looked at that, or any other records of Alexander, to see if he had any children; but of course what his brother’s will tells us is that Donald Dingwall himself probably did not have any children, or therefore any descendants to go looking for his testament.

Graeme Mackenzie.

Officers of the Lochaber Fencibles — *The London Gazette* 11 May 1799

Major Donald Cameron, from the Northern Fencibles, to be Colonel

Major Alexander Houstoun, to be Lieutenant-Colonel, in the Army

Captain George Robertson, from Half-Pay of late York Rangers, to be Major

To be Captains

Captain Archibald Cameron, from Half-Pay of late Independent Companies

Captain John Taylor, from the Caithness Legion

Ensign Allen Cameron, from the Northern Fencibles

Alexander Maclauchlan, Esq.

George E. Grant, Esq.

William Rind, Esq.

Mungo Ponton, Esq.

To be Captain-Lieutenant

Lieutenant Hugh Roy, from the Half-Pay of the late 97th Foot

To be Lieutenants

Allan Cameron, Gent.

Ensign Angus Cameron, from the Northern Fencibles

Ensign William Anderson, from the Rea Fencibles

Lieutenant Ronald Macdonald, from the Northern Fencibles

Ralston Caldwell, Gent.

Binning Bell, Gent.

John Ogston, Gent.

Hugh Robertson, Gent.

Patrick Baird, Gent.

Duncan Cameron, Gent.

Donald Cameron, Gent.

To be Ensigns

James Cameron, Gent.

Duncan Cameron, Gent.

Allan Cameron, Gent.

John M'Millan, Gent.

Ensign John Tod, from the Angus-shire Fencibles

Dougald Cameron, Gent.

Charles Maclean, Gent.

John Thomson, Gent.

To be Adjutant

Lieutenant Hugh Roy, from the Half-Pay of the late 97th Foot

To be Quarter-Master

Lieutenant John Cameron, from the Half-Pay of the late 74th Foot

To be Surgeon

Surgeon Ralston Caldwell, from the Northern Fencibles.

Glenmoriston People in 1799

The second part of the listing of Individuals from Urquhart & Glenmoriston who made donations towards 'National Defence' - as they appeared in the Edinburgh Advertiser and Caledonian Mercury.

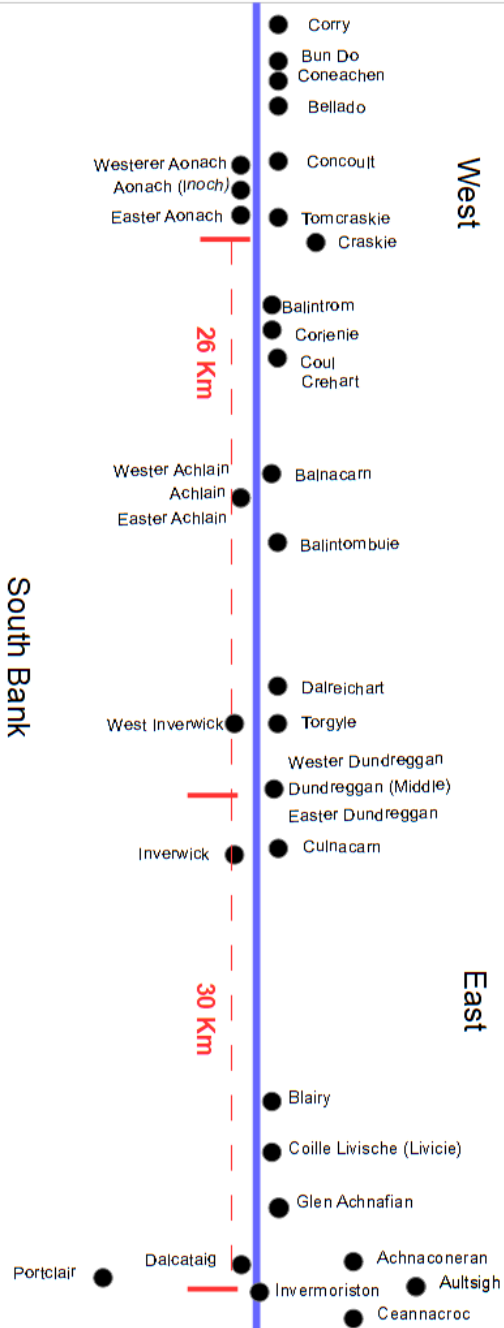
Compiled by Peter Grant (New Zealand)

Name	Residence	Amount
Capt. Allan GRANT of Glenmoriston Volunteer Company	-	£5
Lieut. Alexander GRANT, (Portclair), of said company	Portclair	£2
Allan GRANT, drill sergeant	-	10/-
William SINCLAIR	Duldregan	5/-
John McDOUGALL	Blairie	3/-
Charles McDONELL	Belladoe	1/-
John McKENZIE alias McDONELL	Belladoe	1/-
Niel KENNEDY	Belladoe	1/-
Duncan Buy McDONELL	Belladoe	1/-
Alexander GRANT	Craskie	1/-
John GRANT	Craskie	1/-
Archibald GRANT	Craskie	1/-
John GRANT <i>[possibly repetition?]</i>	Craskie	1/-
Alexander GRANT <i>[possibly repetition?]</i>	Craskie	1/-
Coll McDONELL	Baldrown	1/-
John MacLEOD	Balnacairn	1/-
Alexander McDONELL	Baldombuy	1/-
Evan McDONELL	Baldombuy	1/-
Duncan FRASER	Baldombuy	1/-
Archibald McDONELL alias CLACHAR	-	1/-
William McDONELL	Forgholi	1/-
James GRANT	Duldregan	1/-
Donald BAILLIE alias McDONELL	Duldregan	1/-
Samuel FRASER	Duldregan	1/-
John GRANT	Duldregan	1/-
William McDONELL	Inoch	1/-
John MacDONELL	Inoch	1/-
Archibald GRANT	Inoch	1/-
Angus MacDONELL	Achlane	1/-
Alexander McDONELL	Achlane	1/-
Alexander McDONELL	Achlane	1/-
Peter McDONELL	Achlane	1/-
John GRANT	Blary	1/-

John SINCLAIR	Blary	1/-
Rory McDONALD	Achnacourair	1/-
Duncan McDOUGAL	Achnacourair	1/-
Alexander CAMERON	Bridgend	1/-
Alexander FERGUSON	Invermoriston	1/-
William CAMERON	Duldregan	1/-
Alexander More GRANT	Duldregan	1/-
Donald McDOUGAL son of John MacDOUGAL, Blairi	Blairi	1/-
Alexander McDONALD	Achnacouran	1/-
Alexander McDOUGAL	Achnacouran	1/-
Lois McLONAN [<i>Lewis McLENNAN?</i>]	Invermoriston	1/-
Donald MACDONALD	Tomcraskie	2/-
Donald MacALLAN alias McDONELL	Tomcraskie	2/-
John McDONELL	Tomcraskie	2/-
James GRANT alias McDONELL	[<i>Ballindrom ?</i>]	2/-
William GRANT	Baldrone	2/-
Alexander McGRIGOR	Balnacairn	2/-
Evan McDONELL	Delchreefast	2/-
Archibald GRANT	Duldregan	2/-
Duncan MacMILLAN	Duldregan	2/-
Alexander McIntyre	Achland	2/-
Alexander McDONALD	Inverwish	2/-
Duncan GRANT	Inverwish	2/-
Donald MACDONALD	Livisie	2/-
Peter FRASER	Achnacowran	2/-
Alexander More GRANT	Achnacowran	2/-
Peter GRANT	Livisie	2/-
John MILLER	Invermoriston	2/-

To aid with visualisation of historical Glenmoriston places, I have included a very useful sketch of 'Glenmoriston River Communities' created by Kevin Frye [see next page—Ed]. Kevin is a descendant of Donald Grant (c1744-1806), weaver of Craskie, who emigrated to New York on the 'Pearl' in 1773 and settled on UEL land in Canada. I have a feeling (no more than that) that my ancestor Elizabeth Grant originates from the Grants in Craskie, and Kevin Frye, Elaine Sutton (also a descendant of said Donald) and I have been corresponding on and off for several years on the Grants in Craskie - the best known of whom was, of course, Patrick (Black Peter) Grant 'of' Craskie, one of the Seven Men of Glenmoriston who hid Prince Charles for a period of time in Glenmoriston after the defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Glenmoriston River Communities





Highland Archive & Registration Centre
Tasglann agus Ionad-Clàraidh na Gàidhealtachd

The Family History Centre
Ionad Eachdraidh Teaghlaich

Archives

COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD

Tasglann

Highland Family History Society
c/o Highland Archive Centre
Bught Road, Inverness, IV3 5SS.

www.highlandfhs.org



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