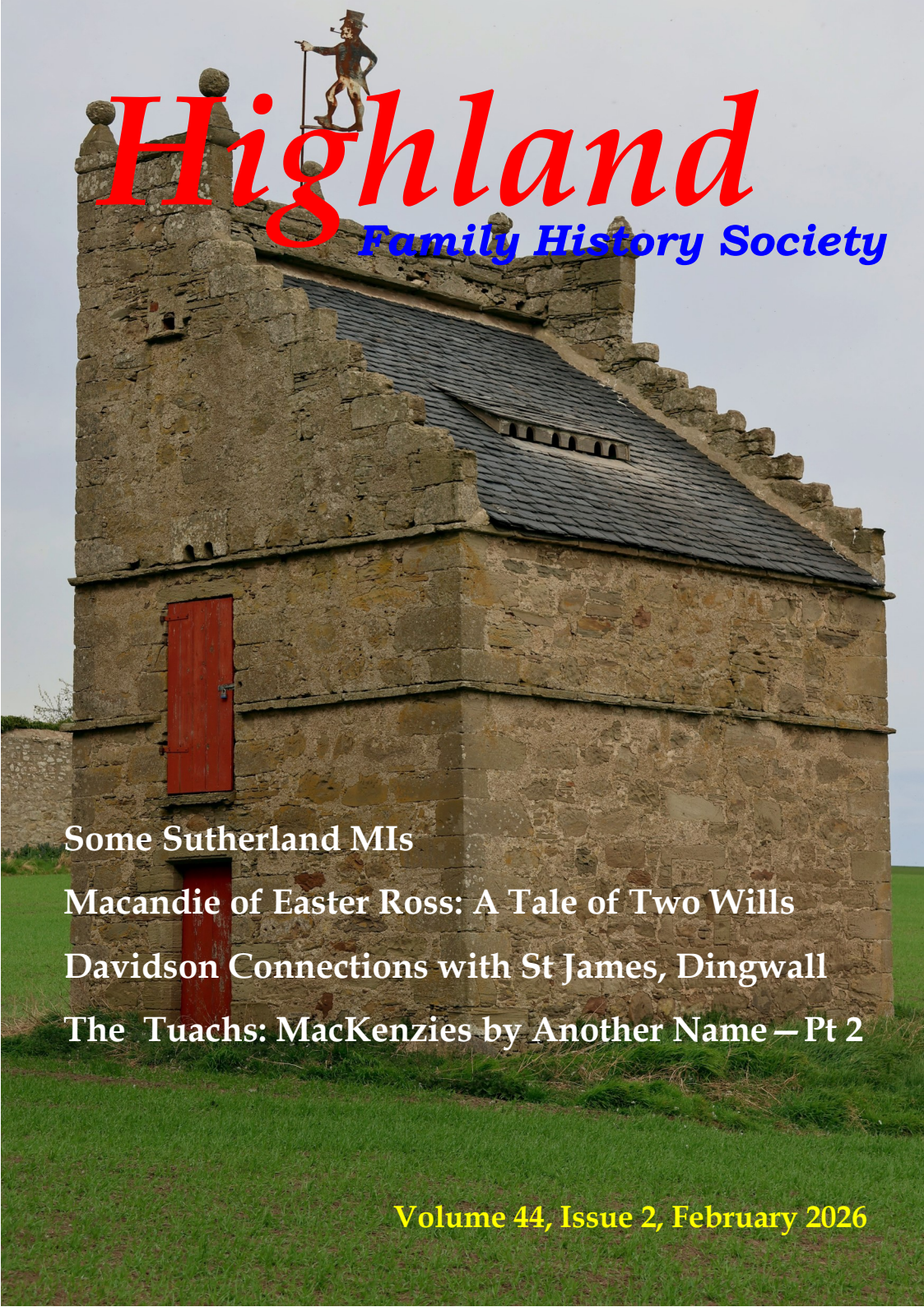


A photograph of a stone building, likely a church or chapel, with a red door and a statue on the roof. The building is made of rough-hewn stone and has a steep, gabled roof with a small window. The statue on the roof is a figure holding a staff. The building is set in a grassy field under a cloudy sky.

Highland

Family History Society

Some Sutherland MIs

Macandie of Easter Ross: A Tale of Two Wills

Davidson Connections with St James, Dingwall

The Tuachs: MacKenzies by Another Name — Pt 2

Volume 44, Issue 2, February 2026



highland family history society

Comunn Sloinntearachd na Gaidhealtachd

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HFHS Journal, Volume 44, Issue 2, February 2026

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Cover Photo: The Cadboll Doocot by Jim Mackay

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Please mark each item for the attention of the appropriate official

NEWS

Our Next Talk

Thursday 19 February, 2.30pm, upstairs in Highland Archive Centre

Dr Jim Mackay of the Kirkmichael Trust will give a talk entitled:

“A Solution to the Abertarff House Initials, and the family of Bailie John Steuart of Letter-book fame”

Our latest publications, and discounted copies of old publications, will be on sale outside the meeting room.

Recent Publications:

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

112 pages. £8 plus post & packing.

NB. *The information from this book is not available on Find My Past or anywhere other than from the HFHS (or the original unpublished register).*

Chisholm Burial Ground, Clachan Comar Burial Ground, and Eskadale Churchyard, Parish of Kilmorack, Inverness-shire, Monumental Inscriptions.

A4, 64 pages over 350 memorials recorded. £7 plus post & packing.

***Clan MacKenzie: Septs, Related Names, and Branches* by Graeme Mackenzie.** A5, 118 pages, with colour illustrations. £8 plus p & p.

***May We Be Britons? A History of the MacKenzies* by Andrew McKenzie.** Crown Quarto, 375 pages, colour pics. £18 plus p & p.
Though this book – the first complete history of Clan MacKenzie since Alexander Mackenzie’s late 19th century work – is not published by HFHS, the Society has obtained copies from the author to sell on at a bargain price.

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/>

NEW MEMBERS

2927. Ms. A. Johnston.

2928. Mrs D. Morgan.

2929. R. J. Lynch.

2930. A. Grant.

REJOINED

2931. Mr. N. Newton.

Share your family history with other members by contributing to the Journal

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

Editorial

It's wonderful to be able to report that, for once, your editor is not short of material for the Journal, and that two or three articles submitted recently are being held over for the next issue because of lack of space in this one. So, a big thank you for all those who have been putting pens to paper—or more realistically these days, fingers to keyboard—and please keep them coming.

I'm particularly grateful to Jim Mackay, who has not only provided the wonderful story of two wills that is our main feature this time, but who has also agreed to speak to the society this month; and again, with a particularly intriguing title: "A Solution to the Abertarff House Initials, and the family of Bailie John Steuart of Letter-book fame". For readers around the world who may not know this, Abertarff House is the oldest secular building in Inverness, and the letter book kept by the merchant John Steuart is a prime source for the 18th century history of a burgh which was then an international port trading with many parts of Europe and the growing British empire.

Jim will be following another hugely informative and entertaining talk, given in November by Jamie Gaukroger of the Highland Archive Service, on "Early Newspapers in the Highlands". Since there was so much to say about the multiple newspapers that blossomed in the mid-19th century in the Highlands—many, it must be said, soon withering away—there were lots later in the century that Jamie did not have time to cover; so we're earnestly hoping he will volunteer to follow it up in our next season of talks.

Jamie's talk and Jim's article intersect briefly when Jim quotes from a letter to the Inverness Courier about the work being done during the cholera outbreak of 1832 by one of the subjects of his article: Dr Nicholas Macandie. That prompted me to access the British Newspaper Archive—available online via *Find My Past*—to look at the rest of the letter from which Jim quotes. In going through that issue of the Courier (12 September 1832), I came across the obituary of a very distant ancestor of mine—a cousin of my 5xGreat-Grandfather Ban John Macmillan—who was something of a celebrity in his time. That's because he'd left home to make a fortune in London, some of the fruits of which he later disseminated to the needy back in Glenurquhart.

I was tickled to be reminded of the way in which he was portrayed in his obituary as coming of "humble parents"—no doubt to make his achievements all the more remarkable—though in fact his father Lieutenant Finlay Macmillan alias Cameron was a first cousin of the Macmillan chief in Lochaber, and his mother was a daughter (albeit illegitimate) of MacKenzie of Applecross; which is probably how he ended up being buried right beside the chapel in which perhaps the most famous of all MacKenzie chiefs—*Coinneach a' Bhlair*—is buried in Beaulieu Priory. His MI can still, just, be read.

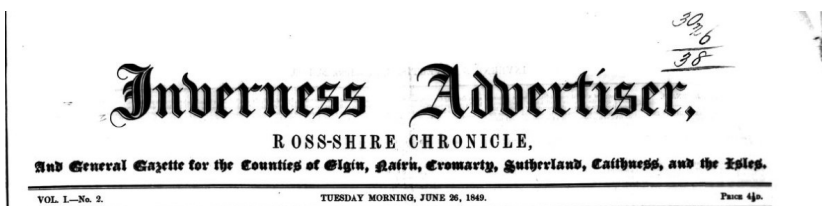
Graeme Mackenzie.

The Earliest Highland Newspapers

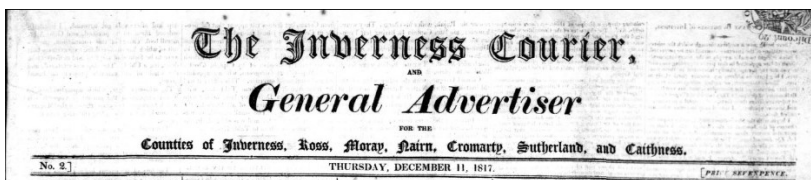
Inverness Journal 1807 – 1849



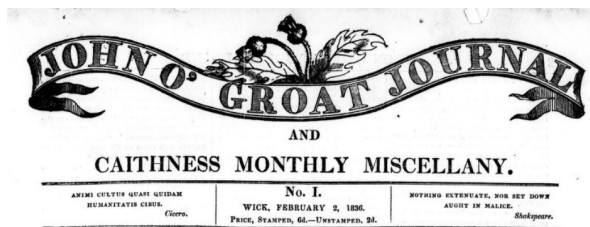
Inverness Advertiser 1849 – 1885



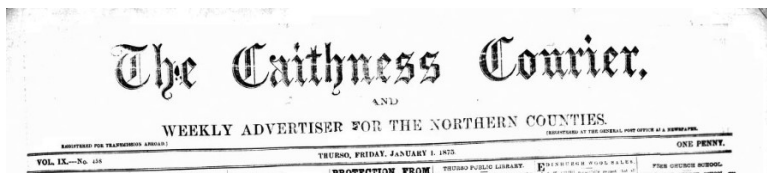
Inverness Courier 1817 – to date



John O'Groat Journal 1836 – to date



Caithness Courier 1875 – 1994



Macandie of Easter Ross: A Tale of Two Wills



There are several mysteries in this Macandie story, and the biggest mystery is where the money came from.

Alexander Macandie (died 1826) was a well-established farmer; tacksman first of Cullisse in the Parish of Nigg, and then for many years tacksman of Daan, above Edderton [in the area pictured above, looking north towards the Dornoch Firth]. He was financially sound enough to give his son John (1768-1811) a medical education, and John became initially an assistant-surgeon with the 78th Regiment, and then, in 1805, a surgeon. But in a few short years John became a relatively wealthy man. He had a house in Goa, and when he died in 1811, still in his early 40s, he was able to bestow generous bequests on his relatives. That is the first will, the will of John Macandie Surgeon. Those bequests unfortunately led to a most unusual family fraud, with the later will of John's father, tacksman Alexander Macandie, being annulled. That is the second will of the title. It contains much useful family information – but the main beneficiary, barrister John Macandie-Campbell of Craigs (1802-), the grandson of Alexander Macandie, appears to have written the will himself!

The Macandie family had not been rich or indeed well-known. Jason Ubych from Tain Museum informs me that back in 1746 the Tain hangman was one Wm Mckandie, and he earned plenty from the hangings and birchings and other punishments he was paid to administer. But he was the only Macandie of note. And Alexander Macandie in Daan was simply a farmer. Alexander's brother James (c1745-1817) had become a cooper in London, working in the Searcher's Office of the Custom House there. He had several children baptised at St Botolph, Aldgate, of whom only Ann Maria Macandie (c1793-1863, to whom I shall return) reached adulthood. Young John the surgeon was clearly close to his Uncle James as when young John had a natural child, the boy was christened in St Botolph and was brought up by Uncle James himself.

Alexander's sister Elizabeth had married a local mason and farmer, Alexander Ross, who became tacksman of Pitmaduthy. They had several children baptised at Kiltearn, but I think only two reached adulthood, Katherine and David William Ross (to whom I shall also return).

And finally, just to complete the family scene, surgeon John had a younger brother Hugh (1774-1802) who departed Easter Ross to join the 78th Regiment himself – after he had been outed by the Tain Kirk Session for having an illegitimate child as well. That illegitimate child would become the noted Dr Nicholas Macandie of Tain (1799-1854), councillor and a hero of the 1832 cholera epidemic of Easter Ross.

The 78th were active in India during this period but where surgeon John made his money from I know not. When he died in 1811 there was a brief mention in the papers and the probate administration in the India Office sets out his assets, but there is no mention of how those assets were acquired. John's will was the sort that genealogists love.

"I bequeath to my natural Son John Macandie now living under the care of my Uncle James Macandie of the Searchers Office Custom House London the sum of twenty six thousand Rupees ... interests of educating my said natural son John Macandie in such Branches of Learning and Science as are required to follow in a proper becoming and respectable manner ... finally delivered over to the care and management of my said Son ... attained the age of twenty three years."

All the other bequests are to people who feature in this story so I set them out just as they come: "I bequeath to my brother James Macandie the sum of five hundred pounds Sterling. I bequeath to my Sister Katherine Macandie the sum of one thousand pounds Sterling. I bequeath to my Sister Margaret Macandie the sum of one thousand pounds Sterling. I bequeath to my Niece Ann Maria Macandie the daughter of my Uncle James Macandie a Cooper in the Searchers Office Custom House London the sum of one hundred pounds Sterling. I bequeath to my Cousin David Ross the sum of two hundred pounds Sterling. I bequeath to my Niece Katherine Ross Sister to the aforesaid David Ross the sum of one hundred pounds Sterling. I bequeath to Nicholas Macandie the natural Son of my Brother the late Lieut. Hugh Macandie of the 78th. Regt. the sum of four hundred pounds Sterling. I bequeath the remainder of whatever I may die possessed to my father Alexander Macandie farmer of Little Daan parish of Eddertoun in the County of Ross North Britain he being my true and lawful heir."

Well, the money that he provided for his natural son allowed John to become a barrister in London and to buy a small estate, Craigs, just outside Dumfries. John was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in 1824, the Admission Register reading "John McCandie (-Campbell), of Craigs, nr. Dumfries, Esq. (aged 22), o. s. late John McC, of 78th regt. foot."



Grave of James Macandie at Nigg

Where the 'Campbell' came from I know not, but many relatives subsequently called themselves Macandie Campbell or Campbell Macandie. The obvious suggestion is that his mother must have been a Campbell but we have no proof of this – when he was baptised on 24 April 1803 at St Botolph, Aldgate, the entry was: "John Macandie son of John & Mary of Little Burr St born Oct 12 1802". So a fiction that John and Mary were married was perpetrated, but what Mary's second name was, Campbell or not, we do not learn.

Barrister John McCandie-Campbell married well, his bride being Grace Maxwell, daughter of William Maxwell of Carriden, in 1823. He had risen far above the tacksman status of his Macandie family, but he was living beyond his means. He clearly kept up with the rest of the Macandie family in Easter Ross and must have visited them on his travels north and ingratiated himself with his grandfather, Alexander Macandie tacksman in Daan. At this time Alexander's unmarried daughter Catherine (1780-1835) resided in-house with her father, and after he died in 1826 she moved into Tain. In 1827 she loaned John McCandie-Campbell one thousand pounds, an act she must have bitterly regretted as she could not recover it from him.

Catharine's sister Margaret Macandie (1785-1854) had married a famous man of the time, Crawford Ross, tacksman of Cadboll, who features in many stories. His windvane cum bird-scarer atop the doocot at Cadboll is modelled on himself, pipe and all! [See the cover and below].

Crawford Ross provided much evidence in the later Shandwick Succession case, and I have a photograph of him in his old age provided by the Tain Image Library. Both Crawford and Margaret are commemorated on a large red granite memorial in Tarbat burial ground, where I have been busy recording slabs and tablestones for the Highland Family History Society. It is one of the largest on site, size equating to social status, of course.



I don't imagine John McCandie-Campbell would have been successful in borrowing money from Margaret with the sharp eyes of Crawford Ross upon him. The only other sibling, James Macandie who would become tacksman of Knockgarty, also had a careful eye on financial affairs. He has a more humble tablestone memorial in Nigg Old churchyard [for which see the previous page].

"The said deceased Alexander Macandie also died possessed of £2700 of 3 per Cent consolidated Annuities, which John Macandie Campbell of Craigs in the County of Dumfries Sold and transferred on the 11th August 1826, in virtue of a Probate from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, dated the 3d August 1826 of a will said to have been executed by the said deceased Alexander Macandie on the 9th day of May 1825, but which has since been set aside by Decreet of the Court of Session dated the 15th May and the 18th June 1833."

The litigation went on for a long time to try to get the money back from McCandie-Campbell. Eventually, in 1851, the estate of Craigs was forcibly sold to raise money for his many creditors, and the Macandies were amongst those creditors. But I suspect that given the competing claims of other creditors only a proportion of the original money would have come back to the surviving Macandies.

Just a few round-ups of other members of the family. You may remember that Surgeon John Macandie had left money to a niece and cousin: "Niece Ann Maria Macandie the daughter of my Uncle James Macandie a Cooper in the Searchers Office Custom House London the sum of one hundred pounds Sterling. I bequeath to my Cousin David Ross the sum of two hundred pounds Sterling." Well, it is a small world. In 1817, who should marry at St Botolph Aldgate but Ann Maria Macandie and Captain David William Ross! First cousin marriage was common at this time and it certainly kept the money in a tight family circle. The Captain survived a military career in the 31st Regiment of Foot in India and retired to reside in Edinburgh. The couple have a handsome memorial in St Cuthbert's burial ground which also shows they had two sons, both of whom sadly died young, one aged 16 the other 23.



The memorial to Captain David William Ross, his wife Ann Maria Macandie, and his brothers James and Alexander

And that just leaves Dr Nicholas Macandie, the most colourful Macandie of all. His origins were not very auspicious. The Tain Kirk Session record for 9 September 1799 says: "Compeared Hugh McCandie Serving Mr Suter Sherriff Clerk, and Confest his being Father to the Child brought forth in uncleanness by Christy McLeod wife of [blank]. He was rebuked for his Iniquity, & appted to have Disciplin, & pay his fine to the Kirk Treasurer." And on 13 January 1800: "Christy McLeod wife of Peter McKinnon Drumer was apoint to apear befor the Congregation for the guilt of fornication before her Marriage with the said Drumer with Hugh McCandie Son of Alexr. McCandie Tactsman in the parish of Nigg."

Hugh hastily departed the scene to become an Ensign and then Lieutenant by purchase with the 78th Regiment but died in India a couple of years later. Young Nicholas was looked after by the family back in Easter Ross, and was greatly assisted when surgeon John bequeathed "Nicholas Macandie the natural Son of my Brother the late Lieut. Hugh Macandie of the 78th. Regt. the sum of four hundred pounds Sterling." Nicholas was sent to Edinburgh University to study medicine (1823-1825) but got into trouble. Or rather, he got a girl into trouble, and a considerable amount of his money was secured by the girl. There was quite a case about it (CC8/6/1983 Damages: Turpy or Turpie v McCandie, 1825: "Anne Turpy, lately residing in Edinburgh, presently in Glasgow, daughter of deceased James Turpy, shipmaster, Newburgh, Fife, and by her infant daughter, against Nicholas McCandie or McCandy, student of medicine, now residing in Ormiston's Lodgings, Bristo Street, Edinburgh"). Nicholas supported the child but denied any promise of marriage, and after a battle she was granted £300 damages for seduction, so that was most of his inheritance gone at one stroke!

His lawyer argued that he had been entrapped by a designing inn servant, but it was shown that she was of much higher status than this. His lawyer then argued that "McCandie was a Highlander, and he and some of his Companions, from the North, were in the habit at times of having dances in which the Gentlemen appeared habited with kilts. For as much as that dress may be admired in the North it is only in parties of the first respectability that our Lowland Ladies are fond of joining when it is used. The consequence was that the Defender and his young friends often felt themselves at a loss for females at their Dances, and they had no other resort but to take girls from Taverns snuff shops or the like where they could best be got."

But her lawyer was able to trump this, for Turphy had learned from Nicholas himself "that he had no higher pretensions than that of being the natural son of a Captain McCandie, who was for some time in his Majesty's service; and therefore your Lordships will scarcely suppose that there was any such inequality as at once to open the eyes of the respondent, to shew her that his object was seduction, and not marriage." The case features in *Seduction in Eighteenth and Early-Nineteenth Century Scotland* [Leah Leneman, The Scottish Historical Review, Vol 78, 1999, pp. 39-59] from which I have summarised this information.

In the meantime Nicholas was married, in August 1824 to one Jane McKay, in Hope Park Chapel of Ease, Edinburgh; the building which is now known as The Queens Hall events venue: "Mr Nicholas McCandie, Surgeon, No. 3 Davie Street, and Miss Jane McKay, residing at No. 101 Lauristone Place, Daughter of the late John McKay, Merchant."

So he was fighting a battle for damages for seduction at the same time as he was getting married and establishing his first steps as a surgeon. But he was soon to return north. He was appointed by the local Health Board as the medical practitioner for a large area of Easter Ross, returned to reside in Tain where he was known as Dr Nicholas Campbell Macandie.

Dr Macandie replied to a survey in 1851 which throws light on his work at the time. He stated that he had practised in the locality for 23 years, that his ordinary and greatest distances in travelling to visit patients was from 15 to 30 miles, that he used a horse and gig for long journeys and that most of the roads were in very good condition. He was asked about any special hardships, and he replied that medical men in that part of the country were allowed only £10 per annum by the Parochial Board for attending the Paupers of a Parish. He became a Councillor, and was getting more involved in politics by the time of his death.

Nicholas had several children to Jane McKay, both whilst they were in Edinburgh and after they had moved to Tain, but she died there in the late 1830s. He remarried, in 1843, Christian Graham Munro, daughter of Lieutenant John Munro J.P. and late of the 3d Royal Veteran Battalion. Their children were baptised in the new Free Church in Tain. His grandfather, Alexander Macandie, whilst residing at Cullisse in the Parish of Nigg, had his children baptised in the Independent Church in Nigg, so there was clearly a tradition of non-adherence to the Church of Scotland within the family. Christian died in May 1853 and later that year Nicholas married for a third and final time, in Tain, Catherine Williamson, daughter of farmer John Williamson, on 22 December 1853. This marriage would be short-lived as Nicholas himself passed away, still in his 50s, on 13 August 1854.

Not surprisingly, the financial affairs of Nicholas Campbell Macandie were embarrassed. He was in debt to multiple creditors and the mess had to be untangled following his death. But this is not to take away from the dedication of Dr Macandie to his profession. When the appalling cholera epidemic devastated whole communities in Easter Ross in 1832, he put his life on the line giving what help he could to the sick. A dispute arose as to which doctors had assisted and one Easter Ross local wrote (*Inverness Courier*, 12 September 1832):

“Now Dr Macandie has continued toiling day and night among the people of Portmahomack for almost six weeks, doing every thing possible for their relief, and actually cooking the meals of three infants whose parents fell victims to the pestilence; and he is now exerting himself equally in behalf of the people of Inver.”

I have been unable to locate any memorial commemorating Dr Nicholas Campbell Macandie or his immediate family. This seems a shame given his good work in Easter Ross.

Inverness Courier,

General Advertiser for Inverness, Ross, Moray.

Nairn, Cromarty, Sutherland, and Caithness.

Vol. XIV.—No. 722.]

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1852.

[PRICE SEVENTEEN.]

[To the Editor of the Inverness Courier]
Tain, 11th September. 1852.

MR EDITOR,—In Dr Munro's observations on some alleged injury sustained by him with regard to his attendance on cholera patients, he cast, unintentionally perhaps, some reflections on Dr Macandie for refusing to proceed to Portmahomack when the disease first broke out there. Now, when the messenger arrived in Tain, Dr Macandie was merely recovering from a violent fever, and although unable to ride, at the peril of his life he agreed to go if he got a gig, which, however, could not be had at the time, so that there was here no *refusal* to proceed on his part.—The certificates produced by Dr Munro merely speak as to his having gone to the infected places, and are silent as to the time he spent there. Now, Dr Macandie has continued toiling day and night among the people of Portmahomack for almost six weeks, doing every thing possible for their relief, and actually cooking the meals of three infants whose parents fell victims to the pestilence; and he is now exerting himself equally in behalf of the people of Inver. Of the merit attending such conduct, Dr Munro draws no little share to himself, for he modestly states that his expectations have been realized in his choice of Dr Macandie, whereas the latter was chosen by the Board of Health.

I am, Sir, your's obediently,

VERITAS.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Courier is the following obituary

X BUCHANAN MACMILLAN, ESQ.—This aged and respectable gentleman, well known to the mercantile community of London, and to various natives of the Highlands, scattered over different parts of the globe, expired in this country on Thursday last, at the residence of John Stewart Esq. of Belladrum. Mr Macmillan was in his 74th year. He was born of humble parents in the glen of Urquhart; and at an early age removed to the metropolis, where, by active commercial pursuits, he realized a considerable fortune, which he seemed only to hold in fee for the benefit of his countrymen, and for enabling him to assist in works of utility and benevolence. Mr Macmillan was for a considerable period connected with the Sun newspaper, as printer and proprietor; and he also, we believe, at one time, held the lucrative office of King's Printer. The love and honour of his native country was with Mr Macmillan, a strong and lasting principle. Our friend, Mr Allan Cunningham, says very finely of Sir John Malcolm—

“He carried from the parent nest,
A loyal heart, 'neath his plaided vest;
He took the heather for his crest—

A hoary spell to mend him
Of native summits, towering high,
And native waters murmuring by;
And that was a' the grammaray,
That made him what ye find him.”

A similar eulogium might have been passed on Mr Buchanan Macmillan. He was in thought, deed, and word, a genuine Scotsman. His house, his purse, time, and influence were always, even in his busiest days, at the command of his countrymen, and of all the Scottish charitable institutions in London, he was the warm and steady supporter. During his latter years he occasionally visited the north, and delighted to renew his recollections of old scenes and old friends. Of the strength and vividness of these impressions, we remember a striking instance. He took a gentleman who was in his company one day at Corrimony, to point out to him the site of his father's hut. A few stones distinguished the place; there was a well near, a little up the brae, and the old man, dashing aside the fern and heath, filled a bottle which he had brought with him, from his native spring. “I shall take this with me to London,” said he, “and if I die there, the last draught I shall drink will be from this bottle.” It pleased Providence, however, to lengthen his span of life; he returned to London, visited the north again this season and closed his eyes in peace and honour within a few miles of his native glen.

Buchanan's surname as publisher and printer in London was often just Millan.

Some Sutherland MIs

The following inscriptions from Clynekirkton Churchyard and Ashchoille Burial Ground are from a notebook held in the Highland Archives, Inverness (Ref. HCA/D133/6) of notes made by the Rev. James M. Joass of Golspie between 1910 and 1912. He was a noted antiquarian of his time and reported on and wrote of numerous archaeological sites throughout the north.



Clynekirkton (above), northwest of Brora

Enclosed by railing opposite entrance. In memory of Thomas Houston Kintradwell who died 8th April 1853 aged 75 years. And of Mary Mackay Houston his wife who died 9th April 1873 aged 92 years.

Attached to above enclosure. Erected by Ellerington Reed Kilcarnock In memory of Gabriel Reed his father who died 22nd July 1857 aged 78 years. Alexandrina McKay his mother who died 7th Jan 1834 aged 57 years. John, his brother who died 16th July 1821 aged 2 years. Also of Hugh Houston his son who died 12th Oct 1846 aged 1 month. Alexandrina McKay his daughter who died 1st May 1853 aged 4 years. Ellerington Reed who died at Kilcarnock 6th Feb 1873 aged 59 years. Jane Houston wife of above Ellerington Reed who died at Carrol Inverness 8th Jan 1903 aged 81 years.

In S.W Corner. To the memory of James McPherson; Farmer Clynmilton a native of Abescoun Parish of Golspie at the early age of 18 he was appointed Precentor in the Parish Church then under the ministry of the saintly Mr Keith. On removal to Clyne he held the same office in the Parish Church till impaired health and age laid him aside. He died June 11th 1869 aged 80 years. Also in memory of his spouse whose mortal remains are laid here and who died Nov 21st 1884 aged 90 years. Also sacred to the memory of The Revd Angus McPherson Parish Minister of Strathly 1890 - 1908.

Clynekirkton continued

Near left of entrance Table[stone]. Sacred the memory of the late John Mackay Clynemilton who departed this life 18th June 1832 aged 70 years. This stone is erected here by his son William McKay.

To left of entrance gate Tablestone. Erected here by William Fraser in Wilkhouse and Mary McKenzie his spouse in memory of Kenneth Fraser their son who died 22nd of Oct 1784 aged 11 years.



Ashchoille Burial Ground (above), northwest of Loch Brora

Tablestone. As a token of filial affection this stone is erected here by George Clyne Sutherland to the memory of his father John Clyne Sutherland late Tenant in Gobernuirgach who departed this life on the 29th day of March 1809 and of the said George Clyne Sutherlands mother Marion McKay who died in the year 1790. Also their son George Clyne Sutherland and the beloved husband of Christian Sutherland who died at Carrol on 22nd August 1863 aged 79 years.

North Headstone. Erected by George Sutherland Carrol in memory of his brother Angus Clyne Sutherland who died at Carrol 18th Decr 1861 aged 80.

Upright stone South side. Erected by Angus & George Clyne Sutherland in memory of their beloved father Robert Clyne Sutherland late Miller at Gobernuirgach who departed this life Sepr 7 1860 aged 77 years. And his daughter Jane who died Feb 1837 aged 14 years. His beloved wife Ann Sutherland died Decr 6th 1869 aged 75 years.

Headstone at East end. To Hector Murray Blacksmith who died at Gordonbush 1st March 1873 aged 50 years.

Alexr McLeod Shepherd Asken Callich 1866 & 1872.

Pillar. In memory of James D Crowlie died in a snowstorm from Croken 5th Feb 1866.

Davidson Memorials

Nick Hide

The Davidson Family connections with St James' Episcopal Church, Dingwall.

The Davidson of Tulloch family were Episcopalians....and we understand provided the land for the St James's Church at Dingwall. The current building is on the site of an earlier chapel, built in 1806. This was demolished in 1851 and the new simple and compact building erected to a new Gothic design by J L Pearson. It was consecrated in 1854, but gutted by fire in 1871. Restoration, by Alexander Ross, Inverness, began immediately, following the original design. A new hall was added in 2005.



St James' Church, Dingwall today....with the 2005 Church Hall alongside

At some point in the 19th century, Duncan Davidson, the 4th Laird of Tulloch family created a family burial vault at this church. This family vault remained in place until 1999, the family remains were removed, and the new Church Hall was built in its place.

We believe that the Davidson family vault was used for the burials of Duncan Davidson, the 4th Laird of Tulloch and his 5 wives, and possibly some other members of his family. In 1999, the remains found within the vault were removed, and re-interred at the Davidson Burial Ground at Millbank on the Tulloch estate.

Inside St James Church, there are fine memorials to 3 separate generations of the Davidson of Tulloch family.

BELOW

Memorial Brass Plaque to Duncan Davidson 1800-1881, which includes both the Davidson heraldry, and that of his 5th wife Sara Justina Davidson, nee Hall



BELOW

Memorial Brass Plaque which commemorates Duncan Henry Caithness Reay Davidson 1836-1889, 5th Laird of Tulloch & his wife Georgiana Elizabeth Davidson, nee Mackenzie, 1842-1926



RIGHT

Stained Glass Memorial window which commemorates Duncan Davidson, 6th Laird of Tulloch, 1865-1917



Contin Kirkyard

An item about a Davidson MI at Contin in the November 2014 edition of the HFHS Newsletter caught my eye. The stone is one of two 19th century items located alongside each other in this grave yard. Both stones are quite different in design. Fortunately both their inscriptions can still be easily read. Their immediate proximity might indicate a possible shared family link, but there is nothing to confirm such a link from an examination of the inscriptions or a review of the on-line parish records for Contin.



The smaller and plainer stone was erected by Kenneth Davidson, a Glasgow spirit merchant to commemorate:

His father William Davidson, elder, Jameston, died 18th April 1858, age 78

His mother Ann Mackenzie, died 1 Jan 1855, aged 70

His sisters Christina, died 26 Sept 1833 aged 19,... & Mary, died 28 Dec 1833 aged 21

His brother Alexander died 1832, aged 21 at Quebec

William Davidson's death registration indicates that he was a thatcher by trade. The family appear to have always lived in Contin. By the 1840s Kenneth Davidson had moved to Glasgow where he was later married twice, fathered 4 children, and later died.

The larger and more decorated stone commemorates:

Simon Davidson, House Painter in Inverness, died 1 July 1870, aged 50

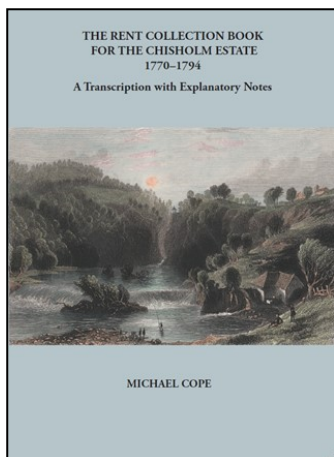
Simon's father, Alexander Davidson, a Tailor at Contin, died 1 April 1832, aged 50

Simon's mother, Margaret McDonald, died 1 July 1869 aged 79

At some stage this family moved to Inverness; both Simon Davidson and his mother were living in the City at the time of their deaths. Interestingly Margaret's age is given as 72 on her death registration as opposed to 79 on the MI. To date, I have been unable to find any early local parish records to link these Davidson families. I would be very interested to hear from any HFHS member who can share information or advise me of any relevant local records which might throw more light on the history of these families.

Nick Hide, Clan Davidson Researcher, nickhide@msn.com

A new study of the Chisholm Estate in the late Eighteenth Century



Michael Cope has published a new study in connection with his research into Chisholm family history. Over several years in conjunction with his brothers-in-law he has transcribed the contents of a Factor's rent collection book for the Chisholm Estate 1770-1794.

The manuscript volume was made available from the private collection of Duncan F. Chisholm who had originally retrieved the volume from an office clearance in Inverness in the 1960s.

The document is a rare source of historical information of occupation of the Chisholm Estate that pre-dates conventional census and statutory records.

The Chisholm Estate in the late 18th Century comprised more than one hundred separately identified lowland or valley farms and upland grazing areas distributed through Glen Affric, Glen Cannich, Glen Urquhart, Strathglass and the Beaully Firth littoral. Known documents describing the estate have previously been limited to a few sett and rental manuscripts for the years 1775 to 1792. These documents have now been supplemented with information from the rent collection book from the period. The book details the properties, collected rents, names and shares of tenants across twenty-five years from 1770 to 1794. About 80% of the properties have been located and are presented as a series of maps with geographic co-ordinates.

The study is published as an entirely digital work on DVD. This choice of format was determined by the realisation that to make the transcription available and useful to a wider community of clan and family history researchers something more than a text in book form was required. The use of digital format has allowed supplemental files to be attached to the main text, including: searchable Excel spreadsheet files for the transcription and contemporary rental agreements, location files for the properties listed in the rent book and image files of the pages of the original source document.

Published in October 2025 by Thirsty Books of Edinburgh and Pittenweem.

www.thirstybooks.com

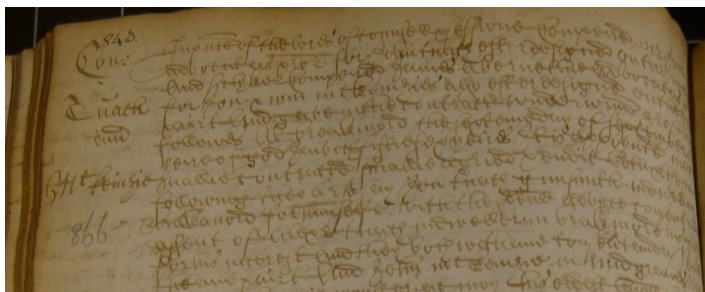
The Tuachs: Part Two

This continues a version of the talk, “The Tuachs: MacKenzies by Another Name in Ross and Lochaber”, given to the society in October 2025 by Graeme Mackenzie.

In the first part we noted that the name Tuach probably came from the Gaelic *tuathach* meaning “northern”, and that the first documented bearer of a version of it, *John Towach Hectorstone* (1551)—a younger son of Hector Roy MacKenzie of Gairloch—had the lands of Davochpollo in Fodderty in the 1560s. We saw that he probably gained the nickname “northerner” in Lochaber, where local traditions record that MacKenzies living on Lochiel’s lands in Ballachulish were known as *Na Tuachaich* because their ancestor had come down from Brahan in the 16th century to help the Camerons in their struggles with the Macintoshes; and indeed, the earliest Tuachs found by George Black were recorded in 1598 as followers of Lochiel.

Recent research has uncovered further records of these Tuach followers of Lochiel; and the earliest of them, in 1570, has two brothers from Lochaber appearing in Davochmaluag in Ross—right beside Davochpollo—signing an agreement with a leading Cameron that is witnessed by six servants of the Chief of Clan MacKenzie. Half a century later, another brother of theirs—*Angus McAllan McEan Towach*—is the recipient of a sasine in the Chanonry (i.e. Fortrose), the administrative centre for the southern part of Easter Ross, which is where we find the Tuachs in the 17th century; the most important of them being the Lairds of Logireich in the old parish of Wester Logie.

The only other early Tuach that George Black referenced in his entry for the name, was the John Tuach who was Laird of Logireich in 1685. The first record of him is the contract for his marriage in 1656 to an Isobel MacKenzie, who was the daughter of John MacKenzie and Isobel Dunbar in a place that appears to have been called *Mid-Grienes* (which, since the Tuachs had associations at this time with Tain, may stand for Mid-Geanies). The difficulty of making out names in the 16th century script of their contract will be apparent from this copy of the opening lines [NRS/RD2/8 f. 843]:





The marriage contract tells us that John's father was an Alexander Tuach—perhaps a son of the Angus mac Allan whose sasine was given at Fortrose in 1620 (who had a brother in Lochaber called Alexander)—and that he lived at a place called Brakenord. This is now in effect a part of the village of Maryburgh, but appears on Roy's military map of the 1740s (shown above) as a mill on the burn flowing down to the River Conon from Loch Eusy/Ussie.

In 1663, the Earl of Seaforth granted John Tuach, gunsmith—by then living at Brahan—and his wife Isobel MacKenzie, the lands of Logiereich, just across the river from the castle of Brahan. The name comes from Logie Bride, for the old parish church of Logie Wester which was dedicated to Saint Bride or Bridget. The burial ground associated with the church is still to be found in the grounds of Conan House which was built on the old lands of Logiereich after they had been sold by the Tuachs to MacKenzie of Gairloch.

John Tuach and Isobel MacKenzie had four sons, that we know of, and probably at least one daughter. One of their sons, Alexander, went into the church and became a Naval Chaplain. After he was dismissed from the Navy he married and settled down in England, where he had a number of descendants. Two other sons became Tacksmen in Scotland: George of Craigbreck in Kessock and Roderick of Gargiston in Redcastle.

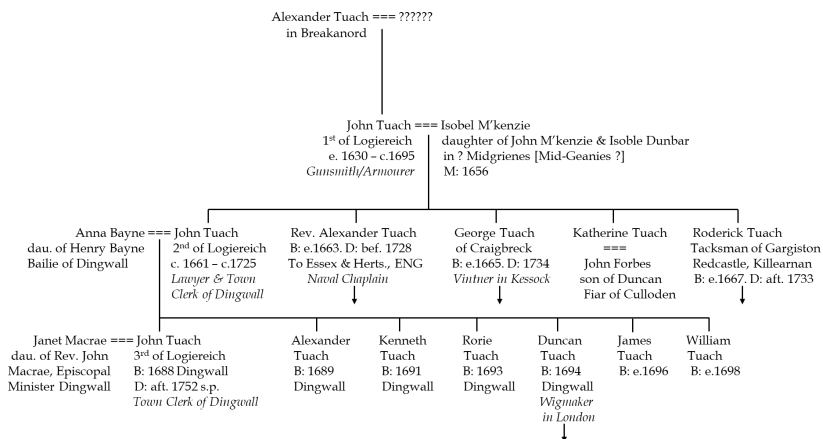
The eldest son, John 2nd of Logiereich, was an ambitious lawyer who in 1687 was Procurator Fiscal for Ross. He conducted a long correspondence with John MacKenzie of Delvine—one of the most successful of MacKenzie lawyers in Edinburgh—which reveals that he hankered after the post of Sheriff Depute of Ross (which he failed to get due to fierce opposition from Ross of Balnagown). He was however appointed Town Clerk of Dingwall.

In the 1715 Jacobite uprising and its aftermath, John Tuach is said to have been the right-hand man to Colonel Donald Murchison who commanded Seaforth's regiment and then, as the Earl's factor, collected his rents and had

them sent to the exiled Seaforth in France. In 1721 Logiereich, his son John, and his nephew – another John who was the son of Rorie in Redcastle – were involved in the Dingwall council election riots orchestrated by their enemies, the Munros (an incident written about elsewhere by the former Editor of this Journal – and now Chairman of the Dingwall Museum Trust – Jonathan McColl).

John Tuach 2nd of Logiereich was married three times, and the baptisms of five of his sons by his first wife Anna Bayne – whose father Henry was a Bailie of Dingwall – are recorded in the Dingwall OPR. He died in 1725, and his eldest son John, another lawyer, inherited the post of Dingwall Town Clerk. He may also however have inherited debts since, though his father had been a lender of money to other MacKenzie lairds, he became a borrower and, when he resigned as Town Clerk, he petitioned Dingwall Council for financial help. The result was that in 1740 he had to sell the estate of Logiereich to Sir Alexander MacKenzie of Gairloch who then granted him and his wife Janet Macrae a lifetime tack of it.

Janet was the daughter of the Rev. John Macrae, one of the most notorious Episcopalians in the Highlands. They don't appear to have had any children, and it seems that John considered his younger brother James to be his heir; though it doesn't appear that he had any children either. Indeed, the only one of the seven sons of John the 2nd of Logiereich known to have had any children was Duncan, who in 1710 had been apprenticed to a periwig maker in Inverness, and who later pursued that profession in London where he married and had his children. The Tuach line in Scotland therefore was carried on by the children of his uncles George of Craigbreck in Kessock and Roderick of Gargiston in Redcastle.



Roderick Tuach of Gargiston was probably the fourth son of John 1st of Logiereich. His eldest son John became a broker in London, and the will John made in 1749—which was very helpful in sorting out who was who in this family—names many of his close relatives in England and Scotland. Gargiston's second son Roderick was also a farmer in Redcastle, and he had a son John who became an Anglican rector in Hampshire.

George Tuach of Craigbreck was probably the third son of John Tuach 1st of Logiereich, and his eldest son David became an Excise Officer who in 1735 was living in Tain (another Roderick Tuach was also an Excise Officer, serving between 1727 and 1739, in a wide variety of places from Elgin to the Orkney Isles). George of Craigbreck had also been a vintner—a trade later carried on by descendants of his brothers Alexander and Roderick in London—and he was wealthy enough to lend money in 1715 to MacKenzie of Applecross and his son Kenneth who was a merchant in Inverness. In 1720 George had sasine of lands in Bishop Kinkell to provide a liferent for his wife Katherine MacCulloch, and after his death in 1734, his nephew John 3rd of Logiereich had to guarantee payments due to her from George's son John.

Though George was succeeded in Craigbreck by his eldest son, David appears to have died without issue, leaving his younger brother John briefly as the Tacksman of Craigbreck, before he moved to take a tack of Glascharn, on the Scatwell estate. The last record of John Tuach, "Squarewright in and Tacksman of Glascharn", was in 1748, when he was ordered to pay money that he owed to MacKenzie of Redcastle. John's presumed son George first appears in 1758 as a witness in Scatwell for Alexander MacKenzie of Fairburn, and then in 1770—as "George Tuach, wright in Wester Fairburn"—he acts as a witness for Alexander of Fairburn's wife Margaret.

In that same year, George Tuach was given by Katherine MacKenzie—the wife of his then laird, Sir Roderick of Scatwell—a silver quaich which is now in the National Museum of Scotland [see below]. It may have been a wedding gift, since the ages of those children of George Tuach and Ann Macleay who survived to be recorded in the first nominal censuses would suggest they were born in the 1770s or '80s. As we'll see, most of the later Tuachs to be found in Scotland appear to be descendants of this couple.

To be continued.



**Silver Quaich made in Inverness
by Charles Jamieson**

**The side is engraved 'Gift Kath
McKenzie to Geo Tuach 1770'**

**The lugs (or handles) are engraved
'Geo Tuach 1789' and Ann McLea'**



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