

Highland

Family History Society



As old as the Lobans of Drumderfit

The Millers of Kincurdie

Men of Dores in 1798

Volume 43, Issue 3, May 2025



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Cover Photo: The Plough Inn, Rosemarkie

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Editorial

I hope nobody will be shocked to find a pub on the cover of a journal that is usually adorned with historic castles, churches, or burial grounds. For me it's a delight to feature such a building since, after I completed my history degree at the University of Cambridge, I embarked on a study of beer behind the bar at the second oldest hostelry in that city: The Eagle. It's an old coaching inn with a courtyard that, in their day, hosted travelling players performing the works of Shakespeare and Marlow (who is said to have been a customer there) and that, in my day, had an annual carol concert performed by members of the choir of the nearby Kings College. It was also where I first learnt to edit a magazine (a local rock rag) and where I connected with people from BBC local radio through whom I came to write and present a series about historic families of East Anglia. They included dynasties belonging to the "brewerage", one of whom later—unbeknown to me—bought a farm owned by one of my Macmillan cousins in Glenurquhart.

As Jim Mackay tells us in his article on the Millers of Kincurdie, the Plough Inn at Rosemarkie is a historic building in its own right, as well as a great place for historians to spend time after visiting the nearby Groam House Museum. Quite by chance, the Black Isle is the setting for the second major feature in this issue; a look at a family said to be one of the oldest in this area: The Lobans of Drumderfit. For reasons best known to themselves, or to those who entered their names in the OPRs, this ancient name was altered in Easter Ross in the 18th century to Logan, thus allowing a separate family from Ayrshire (the Logans of Logan, who are now a "clan" in search of a chief) wrongly to claim the Lobans/Logans of Drumderfit as theirs.

The seeds of this misunderstanding appear to have been sown in a Logan family history written in the 1930s, and were exposed for readers of this journal in February 2011 by Stuart Logan in an article entitled "Maj. G.J.N. Logan-Home versus Scotland's People". As I mention in my piece, there is also an excellent One-Name Study into the name Loban/Lobban, and it cites as the most comprehensive work on these names up here, a book by Cynthia Sweet called "Logan Families of Ross and Cromarty" which apparently was also published in 2011. I have yet to see this work since, though it is available in the National Library of Scotland, there is no copy held by Highland Libraries, nor in the Highland Archive Centre. If anyone knows where we can obtain a copy of this work, please let us know since the HFHS has a considerable book fund waiting to be spent.

Finally in this issue I am beginning an index to the Inverness Sheriff Court Register of Deeds, which is held at the NRS in Edinburgh, and which contains a plethora of entries of interest to Highland family historians. I'm also including some other material from the Inverness Sheriff Court records.

Graeme Mackenzie.

NEWS

New Committee Member

We're delighted to announce that Anne Fraser, who has worked for many years as the Resident Genealogist at the Highland Archive Centre, has agreed to join the Committee of the HFHS.

Recent Publications:

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.

Clan MacMillan – A Complete History by Graeme M. Mackenzie. 318 pages; full colour, with appendixes, family charts, and photos. £24 plus postage & packing.

Tarbat Free Church Births & Baptisms 1843-1862 & 1873-1899 112 pages. £8 plus postage & 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).

All older FC books now with Free Postage and 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 Journal Articles and Suggestions for Speakers

We would welcome articles for publication in the Journal, about any aspect of clan and family history in the Highlands—or any place where the descendants of Highland families settled. They can be long, short, deeply academic, or slightly anecdotal; about the history of your family, or about how you came to family history and your experience of researching it. Your articles may connect you with long-lost cousins around the world, or help others of the same name find out where in the Highlands they may have come from.

If you have a story to tell us in person, or know a speaker who has a great story to tell, we would welcome suggestions as we consider speakers for our next season of talks, beginning in September.

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

NEW MEMBERS

2917. Mrs. D. McGrail. 2918. Ms. F. Stables.

The Millers of Kincurdie and the Burgh Records of Fortrose and Rosemarkie

Dr Jim Mackay
of the Kirkmichael Trust



This story of the family of Miller of Kincurdie or Kincurdy in Rosemarkie should hopefully increase your interest in Burgh Records. I have previously enthused about the Burgh Records of Inverness but those of Fortrose and Rosemarkie are also a marvellous family history resource, mostly found within the Highland Archives in Inverness but with a few contained in the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh.

My interest in Miller of Kincurdie was aroused by the marriage lintel over the fireplace within the Plough Inn at Rosemarkie [pictured above] beside which I have sat on many's an occasion, warming myself at the fire. It reads 16 IM ♥ IA 91 and is said to commemorate John Miller of Kincurdie and his wife Janet Anderson. Their memorial stands a few hundred yards away in Rosemarkie Graveyard. This memorial is in permanent shadow so photographer Andrew Dowsett and I arrived with powerful lighting and a stepladder to record it (the HFHS transcription contains a couple of errors so it is good to set the record straight). It reads:

16 IM ♥ IA 91. Sacred to the memory of B[aillie]. John MILLER and Jannet ANDERSON, his spouse, portioners of the Borough land of Rosemarkie, whose remains are interred here, and to their children viz. Jno: Jas: M.A. Andw: Hugh: Robt: and Jean MILLARs and their relatives. This pedestal is erected by Andrew MILLAR of Kincurdy, June 1806, who himself died on the 13th Feby 1809, aged 90 years; upon the 19th November 1811, Margaret MATHESON, his spouse, aged 80 years.

Near its base is a previously unrecorded large and damaged slab (2050 mm x 1020 mm). It looks like sections were broken out to make space for later headstones and it is badly worn. Nevertheless, the same initials and date can be clearly seen. There are traces of perimeter inscription which with detailed photogrammetric analysis might yield more information. This is the third occurrence of the IM, IA and 1691 combination, so there had to be some important event which it commemorates.

The year carved on marriage lintels is rarely the date of the actual marriage – it usually represents when the married couple came into, built or modified their house. Investigation of the sasines of the period reveal that in 1691 John Miller of Kincurdy sold to his eldest son John, who was getting

married, much of the land he had purchased over the previous decades, reserving the liferent of some of the land to himself and to Janet Anderson to live out the rest of their lives thereon. I presume that year of 1691 was therefore when John Miller and Janet Anderson moved into the property nowadays comprising the Plough Inn (which owes its present form to the entrepreneurial John Robb who greatly modified the frontage in 1907).

The building which is now the Plough Inn in fact wasn't far away from where John Miller's father, Andrew Miller, resided. The Burgh Records (HCA/BF/1/3/1/2) reveal that Andrew Miller was the multurer and miller of Rosemarkie meal mill. There is a sasine relating to, amongst others, a rood of burgh or burgage land being bought by Alexander Gordon of Ardoch from John Miller younger, who had obtained it from John Miller elder, which had previously belonged to "**Andrew Miller multurer of the milns of Rosmarkie Burges of the said Burgh father to the said John Miller elder.**" And in a copy of a charter in the same collection, dated 23 April 1690, there is reference to the same Rood of Burgh Land "sometime belonging to the deceased **Andrew Miller Miller at Meal Miln of Rosemarky** and by him acquired with the consent of Thomas Mustard from Donald Murray merchant in the Burgh of Perth, and afterwards belonging to sd John Miller Senr as kinserved (and retoured in special manner) of the said Andrew Miller his father." Early maps of Rosemarkie show the mill to be located a few hundred yards along the street from the Plough Inn, at the wee burn that still crosses under the road there just east of the Fairy Glen. The most recent mill, still in operation here in 1904, has been subject to a residential conversion.

The records relating to Andrew Miller in Rosemarkie go back much further. The earliest I have seen is found in the Burgh Minutes (HCA/BF/1/1/1) : "The said day the sd. John Miller ... produced Andrew Miller his father his Charter and Sasine in one of an tenement of Land with the yard Barn Kiln and Croft thereof extending to ane Rood of Land daitit in anno **1624** yeirs the yearly Redendo whereof is five pennies." The Millers were around in Rosemarkie for a long time!

Although Andrew Miller the multurer, miller and burgess was clearly an important figure in Rosemarkie, his son John was the really successful one. He bought much property throughout Rosemarkie as well as the lands comprising Kincurdy (which you can reach nowadays from the footpath leading from the car park at the Plough Inn). He became a Baillie of the united Burgh of Fortrose and Rosemarkie and hence acted as a magistrate in deciding cases brought to the Burgh Court. He could, it appears, be threatening on occasion.

There is a wonderful case in the Burgh Minutes (16 March 1683) when David McCulloch in Rosemarkie "did depone that he dreaded bodielie harme & scaith from Jon Miller late baylie of the same" and sought caution of

Lawburrows, whereby should John attack him or his family he would forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds. And the records reveal that the man who stood caution for John was his own brother, burgess Donald Miller. As just one of these coincidences, one of the few other remaining marriage lintels in the area was erected by brother Donald on his house within the Manse land of the Parson of Kirkmichael in Chanonry, now 12 Academy Street, Fortrose. It reads DM for Donald Miller, 1683 for when he entered the house having purchased the land in 1680, and IR for his spouse Issobell Ross.



12 Academy Street, Fortrose

We don't know when John Miller of Kincurdie died, but Janet Anderson departed this life on 23 December 1725. We know this through an extreme falling out between the children. The second John Miller of Kincurdie was in financial straits. He sold much of his inherited land to none other than Alexander Gordon of Ardoch, whose wife's unusual memorial forms a key part of our award-winning restoration at Kirkmichael. Gordon of Ardoch became Provost of Fortrose and owned much land in Rosemarkie and Fortrose and John Miller junior was in debt to him, so the sale of land to Ardoch was rather inevitable.

Well, Janet Anderson had been provided with liferentrix rights to quite a bit of land in Rosemarkie, and she put in sons Hugh and Robert as tenants there on a tack. John as the eldest son inherited the land, but couldn't gain access to it until his mother passed away. But then a further obstacle arose: Hugh and Robert didn't want to give up the land or crop. They refused to pass over their mother's marriage contract without which the Burgh Magistrates couldn't act. John got a decree from the Magistrates to force his younger brothers to give up the contract. But the brothers countered with the claim that as John was a bankrupt and "lies denounced at the horn" so he couldn't take a case to court. Besides, their tack gave them rights to hold onto the land until the lease expired. And so on!

The case before the Burgh Court in 1726 (within HCA/BF/1/3/5) is a goldmine of genealogical information: "The petition and address of **John Miller late Baillie of the said Burgh** agst **Hugh And Robert Millers in Rosemarkie** ... your petitioner stands seized in some certain Lands Roods & Tenements in and about the said Town of Rosemarkie following upon a

Disposition by way of **Contract Matrimoniall past twixt the Deceast John Miller of Kincurdie the Petitioner's father with consent of the Deceast Janet Anderson his Spouse** and as Burden taker in and upon him for her on the one part and the **Deceast Donald McKenzie of Meddat with Consent of the Deceast Elizabeth McKenzie his Lawfull Daughter and spouse to the sd Petitioner** ... immediat possession to the Lands Roods & Tenements ... and to the Crop ... following the Decease of the sd Janet Anderson (Which happened in the Providence of God upon the Twentieth and third day of Decr last bypast)."

Brothers Hugh and Robert were "keeping up the keys of the said Tenements from the Proprietor and just access to the said Executrie Crope consisting of Three Bear [barley] Stacks Three Peese [peas] Stacks with one Stack of Rush [for thatching] and the two Barns full of Peese, Bear, Rush and Rye." John Miller pleaded with the magistrates to administer justice and ensure "**Christian & brotherly agreement twixt so near Relations**" – not much chance of that!

There are fallings out in many families, but the Miller case was extreme. There was a regular legal ping-pong between John and brothers Hugh and Robert which is recorded in fits and starts in the Burgh records. It didn't do John any good in the long run. He was bankrupt then and it seems he went from bad to worse. He was imprisoned for debt in the Tolbooth in Inverness in 1737, and was released under an Act of Parliament which allowed a debtor to get out if he was so destitute he could not provide himself with the necessities of life.

He tried the same approach when he was later imprisoned in the Tolbooth in Fortrose (the ground floor of the former Chapter House of the Cathedral). His undated (but probably about 1738) and no-holds-barred plea to the Burgh magistrates is held in the Burgh Records (within HCA/BF/1/3/5):

"To the Right honorable the Magistrats of Fortrose the petition and address of John Miller late Baillie of the said Burgh ... That whereas your petitioner being incarcerated in your Tolbooth ... and consider the inability of your humble petitioner his old age and weakness being past 75 years or therby: and the winter drawing on that he will need fire, light, and maintenance ... And to consider that the petitioner being ane native of this place: and his predecessors some of them being magistrats & burges ... to free your petitioner."



Miller graves at Rosemarkie

The fortunes of the family were restored by Andrew Miller of Kincurdy who was responsible for the erection of the striking memorial in Rosemarkie Kirkyard. He married (contract 1711) Margaret Pope, one of the devout Popes or Papes whose representatives included at least four Highland ministers, including Reverend Charles Pape, the Minister of Cullicudden. The tablestone commemorating Margaret Pope and her husband stands immediately beside both the big broken slab and the free-standing memorial which record the first John Miller of Kincurdy and Janet Anderson.

Here lyes the body of Margaret POPE, spouse to Andrew MILLER of Kincurdy, who departed this life the first of January 1750; and the body of said Andrew MILLER, who died in Oct. 1760, the remains of their son Andw MILLER of Kincurdy are likewise here entombed. "But at the last triumph, the dead shall be raised uncorrupted and we shall be changed." Also sacred to the memory of George Gordon MILNE MILLER, surgeon, aged 29 years, youngest son of the Revd Robert MILNE MILLER, Aboyne, Kincurdy, who died at Tain and whose remains were interred beneath this stone 31st May 1862. His death took place on the 27th May 1862.

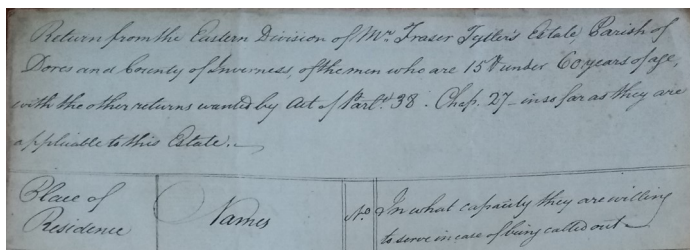
Note the bit that says: "The remains of their son Andw Miller of Kincurdy are likewise here entombed" and the references to Milne Millers. I had difficulty figuring out the connections here, but fortunately this later period is set out in *History of the Mathesons* (Alexander Mackenzie, 1882). The second Andrew Miller of Kincurdy had married Margaret Matheson, one of the Bennetsfield Mathesons, "with issue – among others, Elizabeth, who, in 1804, married Michael Miller, and died in 1833, without issue. Michael Miller died in 1826, and on the death of his widow in 1833, the property of Kincurdy reverted by will to her cousin, Jane Gordon, second daughter of Colin Matheson, of Bennetsfield (who died in 1825). On her death, in 1849, she was succeeded in the property by Colin Matheson Milne-Miller, late of Kincurdy. Andrew Miller died in 1809, at the age of ninety; while Margaret, his wife, died in 1811, aged eighty years." Well, I'm glad I didn't have to disentangle that!

The road up to Kincurdy House behind the Plough Inn is private but on foot it takes you past the wonderful "Caws Cliff of Kincurdie" (on which Cromarty geologist and writer Hugh Miller waxed lyrical) and a mysterious padlocked doorway leading into the hillside. This is not the entrance to a matrix of tunnels but simply the door to the Kincurdie Ice House in the buried and insulated interior of which ice was stored for use in transporting salmon to southern markets. The view from Kincurdie of the Moray Firth and Chanonry Ness is spectacular [shown below from part way up the Kincurdie road] and there is at least one property there which can be rented as an excellent base to explore the Bonny Black Isle, including, of course, Kirkmichael!

ABLE-BODIED MEN IN DORES IN 1798

Faced with the prospect of a possible invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte in the 1790s, the government called for Sheriffs to register all those men in their county aged from 15 to 59 who might be able to serve in a self-defence force. Local lists were drawn up and submitted by the lairds in each parish, with varying amounts of detail about each man. So this list, of the men on Fraser Tytler's estate in Dore, includes their places of residence and "In what capacity they are willing to serve ...", but does not include their ages.

Residence	Name	No.	Capacity
Mains of Erchite	Alex ^r Fraser, Bain	1	Arms
	Hugh Fraser his son	2	d ^o
	Alex ^r Fraser, Dow	3	d ^o
	John Cameron	4	Cattle driver
	John Fraser, Smith	5	Arms
Wester Erchite	James Fraser, Cottar	6	Cattle Driver
	James Noble, Taylor	7	Arms
	Donald Fraser, Apprentice	8	d ^o
	Alex ^r Fraser, Journeyman	9	d ^o
Ballchraggan	John Fraser, Tenant	10	d ^o
Ballintian	Malcolm Fraser, d ^o	11	d ^o
Easter Erchite	Alex ^r McBean, Tenant	12	d ^o
	Donald McBean, d ^o	13	d ^o
Drummond Mains	Donald Noble, Tenant	14	d ^o
	Alex ^r McKenzie, Serv ^t	15	d ^o
	James Noble, Cottar	16	d ^o
	W ^m McDonald, Ten ^t	17	d ^o
Kean Drum	John McBean, Tenant	18	d ^o
	W ^m McBean, d ^o	19	d ^o
Park of Ballnafoich	W ^m McLachlan, Tenant	20	d ^o
	Alex ^r Fraser, Weaver	21	d ^o
Mid Park of Drum ^d	Simon Fraser, Ten ^t	22	Cattle Driver
	Hugh Fraser, Servant	23	Arms
Ballchlodich	Ewin McDonald	24	Arms
	John Shaw, Weaver	25	d ^o
	Alex ^r McDonald, Spinning	26	d ^o
Dores	Don ^d Fraser, Min ^{rs} Serv ^t	27	d ^o
	Leonard Urquhart	28	d ^o
	William Clark, Innkeeper	29	d ^o
	Don ^d Fraser McPhail, Serv ^t	30	d ^o
	George McBean, d ^o	31	d ^o
	Don ^d McKenzie, Smith	32	d ^o



NRS/SC29/72: Inverness Sheriff Court, Lieutenancy & Militia Records

Clune	Francis Dawson, Serv ^t	33	d ^o
	Don ^d Shaw, Labourer	34	d ^o
	Alex ^r Fraser, Dow	35	d ^o
Aldourie	W ^m Fraser, Servant	36	d ^o
	Alex ^r Simpson, d ^o	37	d ^o
	W ^m Michael, Labourer	38	d ^o
	Alex ^r Fraser, Cottar	39	d ^o
	John Graham, Tenant	45	d ^o
	Donald Fraser, Buie	46	d ^o
	Alex ^r McKay, d ^o	47	d ^o
	John McKay, Taylor	48	d ^o
	Alex ^r McGillivray, Miller	49	d ^o
	Don ^d McGillivray, Labourer	50	d ^o
	Don ^d McKay, d ^o	51	d ^o

NRS/SC29/72/14 includes the following lists:

- Parish of Kirkhill – No date
- Parish of Kiltarlity – No date
- Parish of Kilmorack – No date
- Parish of Dores and/or Boleskine – 1797
- Rhum and Neighbouring Islands – No date
- Parish of Kilmonivaig – 1797
- Several districts – Men balloted to serve in the Militia – 1798
- Parish of Daviot & Dunlichity – 1801
- Parish of Urquhart – 1801
- District of Strathdearn – 1801
- Parish of Kilmorack – 1801
- Parish of Kiltarlity – 1801
- Parish of Kirkhill – 1801
- Parish of Kilmonivaig – 1801

The next issue of the Journal will include the complete list of men on the estate of Ness Castle, and information about other lists available in SC29/72/15

As old as the Lobans of Drumderfit



Elizabeth Marshall in *The Black Isle: A Portrait of the Past* tells us that “Separating the old parishes of Suddy and Wester Kilmuir stands the Hill of Drumderfit [pictured above], originally known as Druim Dubh, the Black Ridge, until a battle was fought here of such ferocity that only one of the defeated clansmen survived. Afterwards it was said ‘*Bu druim dubh an de thu, ach is druim nan diar an diugh*’ (‘Black Ridge thou were yesterday, but Ridge of Tears today’). History records how Donald of the Isles camped here intending to set fire to Inverness. Somewhat chivalrously he sent notice of his forthcoming attack to the provost who hastened to offer conciliatory terms. At the same time he cunningly smuggled a large amount of whisky into Donald’s camp, the result being a resounding victory for the sober Invernessians”.

Alexander Mackenzie, in his history of the Frasers, credits the victory over the invaders from the west to “Hugh Fraser of Lovat, at the time King’s Lieutenant” who “having heard of their depredations resolved to punish them. Collecting his men, he marched to their encampment, and by the aid of the Provost and citizens of Inverness who, in terms of a preconcerted plan, there met him, he put every one of them to the sword, except one individual who concealed himself unobserved under a ‘Lopan’, a primitive kind of cart, from which, according to tradition, his descendants, who afterwards occupied the farm of Druim-a-deur, or Drumderfit, for four hundred years, derived the name of Loban, modernised into Logan.”

Reverend Roderick MacKenzie, in his contribution to the Statistical Account of Scotland on the parishes of Kilmuir Wester & Suddy says of this battle: “One circumstance worthy of remark is, that a very honest and respected family of farmers, date their introduction to this parish from that period; and what is still more extraordinary, amidst the various changes and revolutions time and proprietors, they have continued ... and their antiquity is such as to become a proverb, so that when people speak of a very remote circumstance, it is a common saying among them: ‘it is as old as the Lobans of Drumderfit’.”



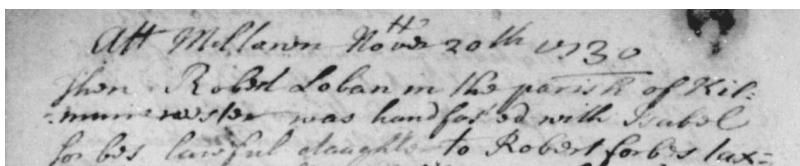
The farm of Drumderfit today

In 2008, Malcolm Lobban of Pooraka, South Australia, published the results of a lifetime of study into the history of his surname as “The Scottish Surname LOBBAN: Notes on its possible origin, together with genealogical data on certain families in Scotland and in other countries”. In it he traces the Logans in Drumderfit back from a Robert Logan who was the last of his name actually to possess the farm of Drumderfit. He was a banker in London in 1870, but his sister married Captain Cameron of Balnakyle whose descendants were still in possession of Drumderfit when Malcolm Lobban was researching his family history in the early 21st century. Robert Logan’s son apparently went into the Indian Civil Service and when he retired bought Raddery, to the north of Fortrose. His grandson Guy L’Estrange Logan was born in the parish of Fortrose and Rosemarkie in 1922.



The old burial ground at Kilmuir

Robert Logan the banker is said by Malcolm Lobban to have been the great-grandson of Thomas Logan (1750-1807), whose gravestone in the Kilmuir burial ground identifies him as a thrice-married merchant and tenant in Drumderfit. Nearby is the grave of his parents, Isobel Fraser and Robert Logan, who is described as “farmer & merchant in Drumderfit” [HFHS, Kilmuir MIs, Page 7, Nos. 64 & 65]. Robert was married—actually, handfasted—to Isobel in 1730 in the parish of Avoch as Robert Loban:



It appears that such earlier records as there are also record the tenants of Drumderfit as Lobans; so in 1564 when Queen Mary granted the lands of *Drumdarwecht and Westir Kescheok* to her bodyguard James Gray, we are told these lands were then occupied by William Lobane and others [OPS II, Pt. 2, page 536]. According to Malcolm Lobban, the charter names amongst the others, David and Donald Lobane.

Who were these Lobans/Logans? The Reverend John MacRa, in his history of the Clan Macra/Macrae tells us that: "There was in Ardmeanach about this time, a man of numerous kindred and followers called Loban, agnamed Gilligorm, who had a claim or quarrel against the family of Lovat But the second or third Lord Fraser of Lovat ... brought from the south country twenty-four gentlemen of his name With these and the MacRas and such others as he could get and thought necessary, he marches directly against Gilligorm, who with all the forces he could make ready, was prepared to receive him, and after some proposals of peace made and rejected, did in the end engage in sett fight, upon the moor of Drumderfit." Frank Adam, in his "Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands", published in 1908, takes up the story much as Rev. MacRa had it:

"In this battle Gilliegorm and most of his following were slain. Logan's wife was captured by Lovat. She was enceinte at the time. Lovat's intention was to destroy the child of Logan's wife should it be a male. In due time the lady gave birth to a male child. It was, however, so stunted and deformed that the child was suffered to live. The boy received the appellation of "Crotach," or hump-backed He was educated by the monks of Beaulieu, took Holy Orders, and founded the churches of Kilmor in Skye and Kilchrinan in Glenelg. Logan left several children. One of these became a devotee of the Saint Finnan, and his descendants were known by the appellation of Mac-GhilleFhinnein, or MacIennan. The MacIennans inhabited the district of Kintail The residence of the chief was on a hill, named originally Dric-na-Clavan, and afterwards Drumderfit". So the home of the Lobans/Logans in the east was relocated to the west to fit with the tradition that they were MacIennans.

An alternative origin for the name MacIennan was suggested to Malcolm Lobban by Hugh Logan, the son of the Gaelic Precenter for the Free Church in Urray, who said that "Crotach MacGilligorm upon birth had his shoulder, not his back, broken ..." and that MacIennan was a corrupt or Anglicised version of the Gaelic for "Son of the Lad with the Crooked Shoulder"; the Gaelic for shoulder being *slinnean*. Coincidentally, as Malcolm himself points out, there is a Gaelic word *lub* (plural *luban*), meaning a bend or curvature; an extension of which, *lubairneach*, means a clumsy, ill-formed man, which could perhaps have applied to the Lobans' legendary progenitor if he was indeed a hunchback. Nothing more is known about Gilligorm, whose name might be "the blue (eyed) lad" or the "Devotee of (Saint) Gorman" — a discussion that continues in relation to Clan MacMillan's "Sept of Blue" — and it's not until at least a century after he is supposed to have lived that we have the first evidence of Lobans on the Black Isle; in the form of *Andrew Lovane*, a tenant of the King in Ardmeanach in 1504, and *Robert Lovane*, a tenant in Castletown of Ardmeanach in the same year [George Black, Surnames of Scotland, 440].

While Rev. MacRa's account of Gilligorm suggests he headed a clan in the Black Isle, MacLennan histories place him and his followers in the west; and this would accord with accounts of the battle of Drumderfit which pit Lovat and the inhabitants of Inverness against the Lord of the Isles and/or clans from the wild west. Since the first version would, in effect, make the MacLennans a western branch of the eastern Clan Logan/Loban (whose pre-Drumderfit origins are not clear) they naturally prefer the second version, which has the Lobans/Logans as a relatively small eastern branch of an important western clan who they say were a power in Kintail before the MacKenzies and Mathesons appeared there.

This second version is supported by the authors of "The History and Traditions of the MacLennans of Kintail" [Jon Gardiner McLennan and James McLennan] whose 1996 publication says their clan are to be identified with the Clann t-Sealbhaich, who were remembered in the 17th century for their participation in the Battle of Bealach-ne-Broige as *Clantalvigh/Clantalvich* (by Sir Robert Gordon) and *Clangalrigh* (by Rev. James Fraser). MacAulay historians however claim that Clann t-Sealbhaich was the name of their kindred; or at least of those MacAulays later associated with the MacKenzies on the mainland of Ross (not to be confused with those on the Isle of Lewis who claim a different origin). The noted 20th century Gaelic scholar and historian, Willie Matheson, agreed that linguistically this makes more sense than the suggestion in some old MacKenzie histories that Clann t-Sealbhaich stands for Clan Tarlich/Tearlaich [see *MacThearlaich/Charleson/Charles: A Sept of Clan MacKenzie?* in the Nov. 2024 edition of this journal].

According to Willie Matheson, Rev. John MacRa stated in another manuscript that Clan Tarlich were the MacLennans and that there was a tradition amongst them that their early habitat was in Glenelg. In relation to this, Matheson noted the existence in Glenelg of a broch known as "Castle Tellve" [pictured below] which in Gaelic would be Dùn t-Sealbhaigh, thus supporting the contention that the Clantalvigh—one of three clans from the west in rebellion against the Earl of Ross—could indeed have been the Clann t-Sealbhaich.



There is nothing however, beyond coincidence, to support the contention that Clann t-Sealbhaich can be equated with the MacLennans; and in fact, Rev. James Fraser, having said that Clangalrigh were one of the three rebellious clans from the mountains who fought the vassals of the Earl of Ross in the “cruell conflict” at “Beallach in Broig”, goes on to report that “in the beginning of the next year a fragment of the former clans, with some surviving M’kinnans ... sallying out upon the adjacent neighbourhood, pilching and robbing, at last fell down upon Beuly barony in absence of the Lord Lovat to catch the Master of Lovat ...”. That suggests the MacLinnans were separate from the clans who’d fought in the previous conflict; but the fact they were ‘surviving’ does make it somewhat ambiguous.

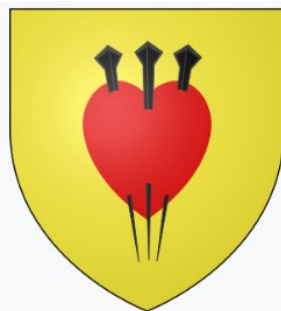
The tradition, dating from at least the 17th century, connecting the MacLennans to the Lobans/Logans was so strong that when Sir Thomas Innes of Learney—who had been the Lord Lyon from 1945 to 1969—wrote “The Tartans of the Clans and Families of Scotland”, which was published in 1971, he repeated almost word-for-word what Frank Adams had said in 1908; and showed Clan Logan’s tartan to be that associated with the MacLennans. Then, when Ronald G. MacLennan was elected Chief of his clan by *gìlfine* process in 1978, Learney’s successor as Lord Lyon allowed MacLennan to matriculate arms that clearly demonstrated a relationship to those of Logan of that Ilk.



Above:
The MacLennan or
Logan tartan as
shown by
Innes of Learney.

Left:
The MacLennan arms

Right:
The Logan arms



HIGHLAND LOBANS AND LOWLAND LOGANS

Whether or not the Lobans who became Logans really are related to the MacIennans remains a moot point. What we can say however is that they are not the same kindred as the Logans in the Lowlands.

The name Logan is said to come from the Gaelic *lagán* (little hollow) and thus to be related to the place-name Logie/Logy (from *logaidh*, place in the hollow) which occurs in both the Highlands and Lowlands [Watson, Celtic Place-names, 140 & 147]. Thus we find *Thom de Logy* or *Logn* recorded as a witness in 1278, and Black cites earlier examples of the name in Ayrshire and Dumfries-shire going back to 1204 [Surnames of Scotland, 436-7] .

The Logans of that Ilk are said to have taken their name from the place Logan in Ayrshire, but may have had lands throughout Galloway – and further afield – since a number of ‘de Logans’ appear on record in the 13th century; such as: *Adam de Logan*, who was a witness in 1236 to a charter by Alexander II, and *Thurbrand de Logan* of Grougar, Ayrshire, in 1272. He, as *Thurbrandus de Logyn* from Dumfriesshire appears on the Ragman Roll in 1296, along with: *Andreu de Logyn* from Wigtonshire; *Phelipp de Logyn*, burgess of Montrose; and *Walterus Logan & Wautier Logan* from Lanarkshire. George Logan of that Ilk appears in 1603, and seventy years later his grandson George Logan of Logan matriculated arms and was recognized as chief of the name and arms of Logan. His title descended to his grandson Hugh who died in 1802 without legitimate heirs (though apparently he had three illegitimate sons). The search is now on for a proven descendant so this Lowland clan can get a chief [www.clanlogansociety.org].

The Lobans in Easter Ross – so many of whom became Logans – were not the only bearers in the north of Scotland of this name, which at one time was quite common on the south side of the Moray Firth, especially in Banffshire. It appears that most of these Lobans/Lobbans stuck with versions of the original, early examples of which were: *Michael Lobane* in Fochabers, Moray, in 1590; *Robert Lobein* in Deir, Aberdeenshire, in 1627; and *John Lobon* in Ternemnie, Banffshire, in 1703 [Black, Surnames, 433].

DNA testing apparently shows the Lobans/Lobbans south of the Moray Firth were not related to those on the Black Isle, and it appears most of them may be descended from one individual of Flemish origin who arrived in Scotland in the 15th century. Interestingly, there is a Dutch name *Laban* which is said to come from a Scottish merchant called William Lobban who settled in Zeeland in the early 17th century; perhaps returning to his roots.

Information on these southern Lobans/Lobbans – along with more on the Lobans in Easter Ross and Inverness-shire – can be found in the excellent “Lobban One-Name Study”, started by the late Alan (Lobban) Rudge and continued now by his nephew Christopher Simon Lobban, for which see: <https://lobban.one-name.net>.

Some Highland Sheriff Courts' Registers of Deeds held in the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh

TAIN SHERIFF COURT SC34

SC34/1 *Minute Books* 1663-1924

SC34/19 **Register of Deeds:**

SC34/19/1/1 Register of Deeds 1664-1678

SC34/19/1/2 Register of Deeds 1679-1695

SC34/19/2/1 Register of Deeds 1812-1884

SC34/19/2/2 Register of Deeds 1884-1979

Earliest items in records of Tain Sheriff Court at NRS:

SC34/28 Miscellaneous Papers (unsorted) from c.1565

Up to 81 boxes, many closed because contents are unfit for production

DINGWALL SHERIFF COURT SC25

SC25/1 *Minute Books* 1773-1911

SC25/59 **Register of Deeds:**

SC25/59/1 1794-1840

SC25/59/2 1840-1855

SC25/59/3 1855-1874

SC25/59/4 1874-1889

SC25/59/5 1889-1908

Earlier Deeds missing, but see:

SC25/60/1 Warrants for Deeds 1743-1847

Earliest items in records of Dingwall Sheriff Court at NRS:

SC25/71/5 Legal papers relating to Urquharts of Kinbeachie 1656-1834

INVERNESS SHERIFF COURT SC29

SC29/1 *Minute Books* 1450-1976

SC29/55 **Register of Deeds – 1st Series** 1710-1810 (10 Volumes)

SC29/55/5 (1725-1731) & SC29/55/8 (1747-1751) *are unfit and closed*

SC29/56 **Register of Deeds – 2nd Series** 1809-1968 (48 Volumes)

SC29/56/1-8 (1809-1834) to be indexed for people – less unfit Vol. 5 (1819-22)

Subject Index for Volume 1 of 2nd Series of Inverness SC Deeds includes:

Bonds, Contract of Separation, Commission, Contract of Co-partnership, Dispositions & Conveyances, Discharges & Obligations, Renunciations, Deeds of Settlement, Factory (appointment of an estate factor), Feu Contracts, Inventory, Instrument of Protest, Indenture, Leases, Letter, Letters & Powers of Attorney, Minute of Sale, Minute of Agreement, Missive, Post-Nuptial Contract, Submission, Sub-Tacks, Trust Disposition, Tacks, Testament.

SC29/56/1 Sheriff Court of Inverness – 1st page of Subject Index

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Bond Hugh Hewer to Duncan Hewer —		
Contract of Separation betwixt Lieutenant William Ol- nington, and M ^{rs} Elizabeth Barker, his Wife —	46-	
Commission The Chisholm in favour of Angus Clack- indrie Esquire, and others —	89-	
Contract of Co-partnership betwixt Alexander (Hewer) and Robert Dick —	187-	
Disposition and Conveyance Angus Clackindrie Trustee for the Creditors of Donald Clackindrie —	5-	
To John Smith Esq. —		
Discharge and Obligation John Chisholm of Knock- fin To William Fraser Esquire of Culbockie —	29-	
Discharge and Renunciation betwixt James Shearer Esquire, and M ^{rs} John Simpson —	71	
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Disposition and Deed of Settlement by M ^{rs} Murray —	218-	
Disposition and Deed of Settlement David Cumming in favour of his Sister, and other relations —	235-	
Discharge Jean Clackindrie to M ^{rs} Clackindrie —	273-	
Factory Randal George Clackindrie Esquire To M ^{rs} Robert Brown —	25-	
Feu Contract betwixt M ^{rs} Ol. Smith, and John Clackindrie —	184-	
Feu Contract betwixt M ^{rs} Smith and D. Clackindrie M ^{rs} —	189-	
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This is Image No. 1 – as referenced in the following index of people

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Surname	Forename	Registration	Reference	Folio	Image
Anderson	John (Rev)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	54	4
Anderson	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	111	4
Anderson	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	128	5
Anderson	Peter	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	123	4
Bain	D.	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	217	2
Bain	Donald	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	131	4
Bain	Gregory	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	217	2
Barker	Elizabeth (Mrs)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	46	1
Brown	Robert	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	25	1
Campbell	Finlay	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	145	1
Chisholm	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	31	2
Chisholm	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	107	2
Chisholm	Allan	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	7	2
Chisholm	Anne (Mrs)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	26	2
Chisholm	Duncan	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	7	2
Chisholm	James	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	81	3
Chisholm	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	263	2
Chisholm	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	13	2
Chisholm	John (Knockfin)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	29	1
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	89	1
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	183	3
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	7	2
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	10	2
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	13	2
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	16	2
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	18	2
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	20	2
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	26	2
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	31	2
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	107	2
Chisholm	The	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	119	3
Clark	Thomas	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	281	4
Craig	Margaret	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	64	3
Cruickshanks	Lewis	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	78	4
Cuming	David	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	235	1
Cuming	Stewart	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	212	3
Cuming	Stewart	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	179	5
Dick	Robert	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	187	1
Duff	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	226	5
Duff	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	230	3
Duff	Mr (Muirtown)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	150	5
Elrington	William (Lt)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	45	4
Elrington	William (Lt.)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	46	1
Erles [?]	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	44	3
Falconer	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	81	3

Falconer	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	96	3
Forbes	(Culloden)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	212	3
Forbes	(Culloden)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	82	4
Forbes	(Culloden)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	179	5
Fraser	(Lovat)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	281	4
Fraser	(Lovat)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	282	4
Fraser	(Lovat)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	283	4
Fraser	(Lovat)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	128	5
Fraser	(Lovat)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	244	5
Fraser	(Lovat)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	72	2
Fraser	(Lovat)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	90	2
Fraser	(Lovat)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	163	3
Fraser	(Lovat)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	48	3
Fraser	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	208	5
Fraser	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	187	1
Fraser	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	258	2
Fraser	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	288	2
Fraser	Donald	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	268	2
Fraser	Duncan	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	186	1
Fraser	Duncan (Esq)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	119	3
Fraser	Hugh	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	186	1
Fraser	James	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	170	2
Fraser	James	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	48	3
Fraser	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	20	2
Fraser	John (Esq)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	59	4
Fraser	Simon (Farraline)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	176	2
Fraser	William	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	283	4
Fraser	William	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	195	4
Fraser	William	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	48	3
Fraser	Wm (Culbockie)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	29	1
Fraser [?]	(Balnain)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	104	4
Fraser [?]	(Torbreck)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	111	4
Geddes	William	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	279	2
Gillespie	Thomas (Mr)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	240	3
Godsman	Betty (Miss)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	87	1
Grant	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	78	4
Grant	Donald (Jamiaca)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	78	4
Grant	Elspet	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	239	5
Grant	G. Macpherson	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	54	4
Grant	James (Sir)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	99	1
Grant	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	78	4
Grant	Lewis (Mr)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	231	2
Grant	William	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	239	5
Grant	William (Mr)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	72	2
Grant [?]	(Rothiemurchus)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	113	5
Gregory	Richard (Esq)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	214	3
Gregory or Gilbert	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	197	4
Gregory or Gilbert	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	195	4

Gunn	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	288	2
Gunn	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	23	3
Hayes	James	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	99	1
Haywood	John (Esq)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	231	2
Hodgson	Thomas (Esq)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	201	5
Honeyman	Lt Col (decd)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	3	2
Honeyman	R. B. S.	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	3	2
Hutchison	Peter	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	279	2
Kemp	Colin	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	152	1
Kinloch		1809-1812	SC29/56/1	128	5
Kinloch	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	150	5
Kinloch	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	226	5
Kinloch	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	230	3
Lohead	William	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	101	3
Macbean	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	244	2
Macbean	Alex (Essich)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	253	2
Macbean	Catherine	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	35	4
Macbean	Catherine	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	38	4
Macbean	Catherine	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	42	3
Macbean	Donald	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	5	1
Macbean	James	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	35	4
Macbean	James	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	38	4
Macbean	James	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	42	3
MacDonald	(Glengarry)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	84	4
MacDonald	(Glengarry)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	240	3
Macdonald	Angus	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	84	4
Macdonald	Angus	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	5	1
Macdonald	Donald	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	16	2
Macdonald	Ewan	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	18	2
Macdonald	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	134	1
Macdonald	Ranald George	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	25	1
Mackay	John (Sr)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	282	4
MacKenzie		1809-1812	SC29/56/1	183	3
MacKenzie	Arthur	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	44	3
MacKenzie	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	221	4
Mackintosh	(The)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	104	4
Mackintosh	A. (Esq)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	126	3
Mackintosh	Aeneas (Esq)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	89	1
Mackintosh	Duncan	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	113	5
Mackintosh	Phinias	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	50	4
Maclean	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	20	2
Maclean	Lt Col	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	273	1
Maclean	Robert	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	10	2
MacLennan	George	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	214	3
MacLennan	George	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	131	4
Macpherson	D. (Writer)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	189	1
Macpherson	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	273	1
Macpherson	Wm (Inveretie)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	54	4

Macrae	Alex (Execs)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	221	4
Mane	James (Esq)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	44	3
McKenzie	Donald	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	249	2
Munro	George	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	59	4
Munro	George	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	64	3
Munro	John (Esq)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	101	3
Murdoch	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	23	3
Murray	Alexander	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	218	1
Nairn	Hugh	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	126	3
Nicol	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	244	5
Nicol	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	81	3
Nicol	John (Mr)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	96	3
Oliver	Robert	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	275	3
Oliver	Thomas	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	275	3
Richardson	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	163	3
Robertson [?]	(Inches)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	208	5
Rose	Mrs (Kilravock)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	82	4
Ross	Isobell	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	197	4
Sands	George (Esq)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	96	3
Shearer	James (Esq)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	71	1
Sheriff	David	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	54	4
Simpson	John (Mr)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	71	1
Smith	A. (Mr)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	134	1
Smith	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	5	1
Smith	John	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	157	1
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	189	1
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	145	1
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	152	1
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	157	1
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	165	1
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	170	2
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	249	2
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	244	2
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	253	2
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	258	2
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	263	2
Smith	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	268	2
Smith	Rev Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	44	3
Sutherland		1809-1812	SC29/56/1	183	3
Tolmie	Al.	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	189	3
Tolmie	Andrew	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	101	3
Tolmie	William	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	90	2
Tolmie	William	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	189	3
Urquhart	George	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	201	5
Wilson	William	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	50	4
Young	John (Mr)	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	123	4
Young	Mr	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	163	3
Young	William	1809-1812	SC29/56/1	54	4



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Tasglann agus Ionad-Clàraidh na Gàidhealtachd

The Family History Centre
Ionad Eachdraidh Teaghlaich

Archives

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Tasglann

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