



Summer has flown past as it always does, and soon it will be time for our monthly meetings to begin again. The first is on Oct.22nd. We hope that you will continue to support us and that there will be something to interest everyone in the syllabus we have drawn up. On Thursday, December 17th, we will again be having a Xmas meal at Westlands, so make a note in your diary now.

At the A.G.M we were delighted to welcome Norma McInnes to the committee.

The various Homecoming events certainly succeeded in bringing a large number of visitors to Scotland this summer. On a research trip to NAS I found the search rooms busier than I have ever seen them, and it was clear from snatches of conversation that people had come from all over the world, and were making the most of their time in Edinburgh. Some visitors found their way to Moulin and our volunteers manning the Research Room have had some interesting queries to deal with, and encountered some coincidences too. See Kay's piece on page 6.

Amongst the equipment in the Research Room is the comb binder we use for binding MI books etc. and a stock of binding combs and clear plastic covers. If you have written up your family history, why not bind it as a book? All we ask is that you pay for the combs and covers used.

While looking for something else, I was side-tracked by an account in the "Caledonian Mercury" of the Athole Gathering on 5th Aug. 1836. It noted the names of the "fashionable company" who attended on a beautiful August day, and listed the winners of the various events which included piping, putting the stone, caber, and dancing - all of which are familiar today. There were also prizes for both male and female servants who had been the longest in service in one place, plaid and linen manufactured in Athole, and for Highland Dress made from this plaid.

I have a copy if anyone wants to see if their ancestors were amongst the prize-winners.

On p6 I have mentioned a few websites. I can recommend the Memento Mori site having discovered a reference to family there, and ordered a photograph. For my payment I received a general view of the cemetery, several photos of the stone (photographed in sections for clarity), a transcript, map ref. of the cemetery, and a plan showing the grave. I was fortunate too that the inscription provided me with invaluable new information.

Isabel Hay



Research Room Moulin Kirk
 Opening times from 1st May 2009
 Wed., Sat., Sun.
 12noon-4pm

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Family follies, or lost fortunes. A search for family origin (Part 2)

What then was there at Loch Tay in the 1700s, now considered generally as always having been Campbell country? At Loch Tay, there is the village of Fernan. Before 1766, Fernan or Fernan was a considerable area and part of the lands of Robertson of Strowan.

I am interested in the Barony of Fernan, as by early to mid 1700s it is the only substantial area around Loch Tay that remains as Robertson land. Before that, especially back to 1500s and just before, considerable areas of Loch Tay were under various Robertsons (including the branch Robertson of Carwhin), with many areas falling to the Campbells and later constituting parts of the vast Breadalbane estates.

And the Barony of Fernan was destined to come to the Campbells too.

Internet resources are improving access for family researchers distant from their families' origins. "A selection of Forfeited Estate papers" (ed. A H Millar), available for some time now as a digitised book (at <http://www.archive.org/details/selectionofscott00millar>), covers in three chapters the Robertson of Strowan estates forfeited after '89, '15, and '45, and is the only book so far I have looked at that mentions Fernan.

More difficult for me from this distance is getting details of Fernan (population, organisation, geography, history, occupants, rents, Kirk records of Kenmore, I think, maps, anything at all!).

The aforementioned Millar editing of the estate papers of Strowan does a reasonable job of explaining the history of the forfeiture of Robertson of Strowan estates, as follows:

Forfeited in 1690 due to involvement in uprising 1689. Queen Anne gives estate back as a gift 1703 (implying "forfeiture" means absolute and complete loss of rights by former proprietor), but Strowan failed to pass the seal while Anne alive and therefore after her death gift is arguably null and void.

Strowan out again in 15 and 45

After 15, lands back in hands of Crown (well, they may never have been legally back in hands of Strowan anyway, certainly not after Anne died!) but King gifts estates to Strowan's sister Margaret Robertson as trustee in 1724, with conditions about inheritance and restrictions on disposition, and possibility it will be taken back by Crown. Strowan meanwhile stays in possession the whole time.

He dies in 1749 without issue and lands go back to commission. In mid 1780s estate goes back to a distant relation of Strowan with large debts.

Strowan's estates by 1749 are largely around or near Loch Rannoch and in Logierait parish. However, Fernan at Loch Tay is a substantial area all by itself. Breadalbane eventually got a lease over Fernan from Forfeiture Commission factors in early 1750s, and complete ownership, by Exchange, in Act of Parliament 1766 while estates were still under management.

It is also interesting in the forfeiture papers that Robert Menzies was the final of the three main factors/managers of the estates from 1749 until the mid 1780s, when in about 1785 a descendant of Alexander Robertson died 1505 (and therefore a distant cousin of Alexander died 1749) got back what was left (with large debts).

As I have mentioned above, one of my letter writers suggests - in an admittedly rather confused fashion - that information about our family's "Loch Tay Estates" or "Robertson Thousands" can be found in an approach to the Menzies family.

My family believed in the 1930s - misguidedly I would think - that they had some existing legal association with the "Robertson Thousands" at Loch Tay. Clearly some of the specifics may be wrong, but given the involvement of my great grandfather's first cousin Lord Lochee of Gowrie in checking and verifying the links in the 1880s I believe there is some substance to the belief in our origins on land at Loch Tay, even if the letter writers have a flawed grasp of facts and detail.

I'm certainly not aware that in the break up of the Breadalbane estates in the early 20th century opportunities arose for past owners or occupiers to pursue a past interest in land at that stage, if those past interests had survived legal actions, Acts, and the passage of time. I know there was a significant succession case for Breadalbane title and estates in the 1800s, but I have no idea if there were legal complexities with the dissolution of the empire that allowed people to make claims. Perhaps someone can help me on that.

Breadalbane and Stewart of Dalguise records in National Archives of Scotland show that a direct descendant of Alexander (died 1505), Robert Robertson of Strowan, gave a charter to his brother Duncan Robertson, of the lands of Corriecherrie and Balliemenach in Fernan in barony of Strowane in 1622. 1

Fernan is an area of land associated with Robertson of Strowan as follows:

DONALD ROBERTSON, OF STRUAN, b. in around 1550 entered into a Bond of Mutual Protection with Campbell of Glenorchy on 20 March, 1584. He m.

firstly to Janet, daughter of Neil Stewart, 2nd of Foss, (she d. by 29 November, 1585), secondly to Beatrix Farqharson, (c/m 15 August, 1587,) Donald was the father of the Robert Robertson of Struan and Duncan Robertson, (the latter who had a charter for the lands of Corriecherrie and Ballimeanach Fernan from his brother Robert Robertson of Struan in 1622 and was served heir provisional to the lands of Struan in 1630).

Assuming then we came to Middle Dalguise in the few decades immediately before 1762, it would fit in with significant events for Fearnan or Fernan, which was the only significant Robertson landholding around Loch Tay by the late 1600s/early 1700s, and which was secured by Breadalbane in the early 1750s but only by a lease, while under the control of forfeited estate factor James Small and later dealt with by the next factor Robert Menzies, in which period (up to mid 1780s) Fernan went into hands of Breadalbane more permanently in 1766 by exchange with another of Breadalbane's areas of land in an Act of Parliament. 2

Note that Breadalbane writes to the Forfeiture Commissioners in 1764, some years after he secured a lease from the Commission over the property but 2 years before it became his property, that he had reversed the behaviour of the people of Fernan, and words to the effect that they were now decent:

"...his Lordship states that he has had the satisfaction of succeeding in bringing the inhabitants [of Fernan] to be honest and good subjects, from having been for a long term of years remarkably the reverse, and he is sure the intention of the Commissioners is the same as his..." 3

Two years after writing, Breadalbane's hint of a conspiracy bears fruit with the Act of Parliament giving him Fernan. So we - if we were there - were probably shipped out if that's what he thought of the people! It is also interesting to note that there is a link between an Alexander Robertson of Fernan and Stewarts of Dalguise in 1623 (albeit only a loan, I think 4 .

Note also that Duncan soon after being chartered the land of Corriecherrie and Balliemenach in Fernan by his brother Robert in 1622, makes a deal regarding these two properties with Colin Campbell in 1623, the nature of which I don't yet understand, as Robert (Duncan's brother) seems to be in some state of interdiction to the Earl of Erroll 5. If anyone can shed light on that arrangement or where I should research it I would be grateful for any advice.

There are over 140 results for Fearnan or Fernan in Breadalbane papers in the National Archive of Scotland, but most after 1762, by which stage my family was on the Steuart estate in Middle Dalguise. It is interesting to

note that some critical documents regarding the early history of Fernan (namely NAS GD38/1/37 "Charter by Robert Robertson of Strowan to his brother Duncan Robertson, of the lands of Corriecherrie and Balliemenach in Fernan in bar. of Strowane 1622", and GD38/1/134 "Contract between Colin Campbell, fiar of Glenurchy, on the one part, and Duncan Robertson, brother to Robert Robertson of Strowan" are actually held in the Dalguise papers in NAS, suggesting some connection between Robertsons of Fernan and Stewarts of Dalguise despite the fact neither of these early documents on the face show any connection to Stewarts of any family branch, let alone of Dalguise).

Finally one other piece of circumstantial evidence is that we know we are related to the current Clan Donnachaidh chief and two of his cousins, sharing a common ancestor of Alexander of Struan who died 1505. Exactly how on paper is the issue.

Now it is possible that we are not a direct descendant of Duncan (or at all). Our link may be distant, and therefore we may only held a tack or a large lease in the area. But given that the lands are treated as significant in written and oral sources in the family, I believe Fernan or a part of it is worthy of consideration/research as the "Robertson Thousands" and that the timing of upheavals is right to find us surfacing in Dalguise in 1762 with a marriage, but no other birth or marriage records for family.

Internet resources are limited and I think my next step in tackling the issues here is to look in detail at the Dalguise Muniments in NAS to see what they can turn up on the family I am certain of in Middle Dalguise by 1762, and perhaps look at the Kirk session records for Kenmore, Little Dunkeld and Logierait in the period 1762 and before to see if anything is recorded about movements of people in and out of the parishes. The Breadalbane papers will be a valuable source too.

I am interested if anyone has already researched Fernan and its history, and also for any comments or suggestions.

I am also interested in the history of the Forfeiture Commission (for its own sake) and its legal establishment, powers and operations. Even if it has absolute discretions with the forfeited properties, I am interested as to whether there were conventions followed in dealing with and managing the land regardless of black letter law i.e. generally estates were kept as received and managed, in preparation for return to a previous proprietor if he promised to behave, unless he was disliked?

Or was it a Trust situation between the dispossessed land owner and the Commission, or between the Crown

and Commission? I am also interested in how the forfeiture of lands affected those possessing the lands (from those with tacks, to the yearly tenant), legally and in practice, and if there are any books on this, or academic papers.

1 NAS GD38/1/37 Charter by Robert Robertson of Strowan to his brother Duncan Robertson, of the lands of Corriecherrie and Balliemenach in Fernan in bar. of Strowane 1622

2 The forfeited estate papers make it clear Breadalbane got Fernan by 1766:

Anno 1766. By authority of Act of Parliament an Ex-cambion was made of certain parts of the Annexed Estates for Lands belonging to the Earl of Breadalbane. His Lordship disposed to the Crown the lands of Pitkelony, lying in the parish of Muthill, adjacent to Drummond Castle, the principal seat of the family of Perth, and in the heart of the Estate The Crown disposed to his Lordship part of the Estate of Perth called Lix.....

Also the lands of Fernan, part of the Estate of Strowan.

3 Ibid p 260

4 NAS GD38/1/131 Discharge by Margaret Boyd, widow of George Nesmyth, younger, to John Stewart of Dalguis for 100 merks in part payment of a bond for 600 merks due by him and Alexander Robertson of Fernan 1623 (I assume Stewarts at least knew Alexander at this stage).

5 GD38/1/134 Contract between Colin Campbell, fiar of Glenurchy, on the one part, and Duncan Robertson, brother to Robert Robertson of Strowan, on the other, narrating that the foresaid Robert Robertson of Strowan and Agnes McRannald, his spouse, with consent of Francis, Earl of Erroll, to whom the said Robert Robertson is interdicted on 19 & 25 November 1622 wadset for £1000 to the said Duncan Robertson, the two merk land of Corriecherrie and the 2 merk lands of Ballemenach in Fernan, and the said Duncan now with their consent wadsets for 500 merks these two merk lands of Ballemenach to the said Colin Campbell.

David Robertson,
Tasmania

Photograph restoration.



From this.....



....to this.

With a computer and image editing software such as Photoshop Elements much can be done to enhance faded photographs. The example here is one I worked on recently for Tom Hood, who has kindly allowed me to show the result here. The creased and faded photograph is of his grandmother with her parents and sister, and the challenge was to try to recover some of the detail.

This photo had already undergone some “restoration” - it looked as if someone had tried to effect repairs to the original by colouring in the creases. I began by scanning the picture at a fairly high resolution to keep as much information as possible, and got rid of the colour, which immediately toned down the previous repairs. Then as it was so faded, I added duplicate layers to strengthen what was there, increased the contrast, and adjusted the brightness to make the whole photograph, but especially the faces, as clear as possible. After that it was time for the clone stamp. This is a tool which allows you to copy areas of the picture to fill in missing bits. First the picture must be enlarged, then you select a suitable size of “brush” for the area to be worked on, and very carefully fill in cracks and cover up marks. Many programs have an automatic way of removing dust and scratches, but I find that tends to remove the fine detail, and faces in particular end up with an unnatural, “plastic” appearance.

There are many more advanced techniques that I have yet to master, but what I did with this photo can be done relatively easily, and I hope some of you will be inspired to have a go. Just delve into the program menus and try out functions to find out what they do. Remember, what you will be working on is just a scanned copy. No matter what happens, no actual photograph will be harmed!

Isabel Hay

My Scottish Family Search

May 2009.... My dream came true, actually way more than my dream. I visited Scotland, the childhood home of my grandfather on Mom's side. Grandpa James Ritchie left his lush green homeland and journeyed to southern Saskatchewan, one of the driest and wind swept parts of Canada in the early 1900's. It is impossible to imagine what goes on inside a young man of maybe 16, to inspire this kind of a drastic move. He never returned to his home country and in fact, neither did my mother. It was something that I needed to do one hundred years later.

I did not meet my grandfather. He died when mother was 13. A young teenager, who had not even started asking the questions about family that start occurring to one later on, and consequently she knew little about her family in Scotland and I knew less. Now in my fifties, I am not the kind of person to leave gaping holes in my family history, and so my search began.

I only had a few clues to begin. The oral story of Grandpa James is that he came to Canada from an orphanage, in his teens. My mother was aware of one great-uncle, Jock Ritchie, from Brechin, Angus, and that he had a wife named Lizzy. Mom gave me the letter from her Uncle Jock, written from Brechin in 1963. He included a newspaper article in the letter, about him being a pipe major at the Rossie School for boys. I also found three old photos that Mom said were from Scotland. In the letter, Jock gave his age and birth date. Exact dates are what are needed to start searching internet records. Scotland's records are very advanced compared to what we have in Canada. I started out on my own doing a bit of hit and miss searching, but gave up many times not knowing how to continue. I hired a search in 2004 that provided me with some names and places from census records. Still I knew little.

On Jan. 8, 2005 I emailed the North Perthshire Family History Group. James Ritchie was from East High Street in Crieff. I found out that that was in Perthshire and I hoped once again that I was sending off an email that would bring a response that I could use. I received an email back from a real person. Connie Walters, the secretary at the time, sounded interested in my Ritchie family search. It was not long till I got another email from Connie with information on my grandfather's family. I sat and read that email over and over and over. Over the next few years, in fits and starts, I emailed NPFHG. I even joined as a member for a time and received newsletters. What I really needed was the personal connection right in Scotland, the voice that said "Look here", "Try this", the voice that helped me to keep looking.

Kay Liney, the tireless researcher and chairperson of NPFHG emailed me just before I came to Scotland and suggested that I put an article in the Brechin paper. That being where one of my clues was from, the letter from Uncle Jock. Kay said "Try a long shot." I tried and it paid off. I wrote a letter to the editor of the "Brechin Advertiser", Steve Mitchell, asking for anyone to respond that might have known my Gr. Uncle Jock. Betty Ross of Brechin read the letter and responded. My Gr. Uncle Jock is her Gr. Uncle Jock!! She shares my Gr. Grandparents. Betty's grandmother is Elizabeth, the first child of the family of five. My grandfather, James, is the youngest. We did not know that each other existed! Meeting Betty and some of her family was worth every bit of searching and the greatest reward of our whole trip!

Elisabeth, Thomas, Jane, John (Jock), and James are the five children in this story. My grandpa James was only one year old when his mom, Jane Ritchie, died. She must have been sick with tuberculosis when she carried James. John Ritchie, still newly married but already a widower for five years and father of five small children died in the Strathearn Combination Poorhouse in Auchterarder. I visited our Great-grandmother's grave in Crieff. I have not yet found where Great-grandfather is buried. The five children all spent some years at the Aberlour Orphanage. I still know very little about the lives of Thomas and Jane Jr.

Part of the search is mine, but a large part belongs to the family that cannot speak. The tragedy that is buried in the heart of John and Jane needs a voice. The five children need to be remembered and at least some of the details of their story known. I have the beginning pieces and will continue the search.

I will always be greatly indebted to the NPFHG for their interest and supportive help.

Myra Reinheimer
Okotoks, Alberta, Canada

Articles for publication in the Newsletter

They should be original work please, should preferably relate to Highland Perthshire, and may be submitted to the editor, Isabel Hay, by e-mail, (vicechairman@npfhg.org), on CD, or by post to:-
Newsletter, c/o 21a Robertson Cres., Pitlochry, PH16 5HD.

The deadline for the Dec. Newsletter is 20th Nov. 2009.

Glorious 12th for the McGlashans of Edradour

Early in August Mr and Mrs Ian McGlashan from Helensburgh contacted me to say they hoped to be at the Moulin Research Centre on the 12th of August to do some research into their McGlashans who lived at Edradour in the 19th century. John McGlashan, Ian's ancestor, was one of the three farmers in that area who set up the well known Edradour Distillery.

Tom Hood and I were on duty when Ian McGlashan and his wife arrived.

They had been there for an hour or so, looking at censuses on microfilm and certificates on the Scotland-people website. Ian had a vast store of family stories passed down, plus some newspaper cuttings, but little documentary information on his family.

We were trying to work out the different generations, when a voice said from the doorway "I'm sorry for interrupting, but I have been listening to your discussion and I am descended from those McGlashans too." Isobel Buick from Edinburgh had come to the Centre to give us some McGlashan family photographs for our exhibitions.

You can imagine the excitement in the research centre as Ian and Isobel started to compare notes and swap information.

They worked out that they were 4th cousins at least. I had to leave at that point, but I heard from Tom that they had celebrated with a lunch at Moulin Inn and intended to keep in touch.

Kay Liney

Committee			
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Websites

www.memento-mori.co.uk

This lists MIs in a variety of Scottish burial grounds across central Scotland. For £5 they will supply a photo.

www.mbgrg.org

Moray Burial Ground Research Group. This site has a searchable indexes.

www.namethesaurus.com

If you have difficulty thinking of possible name variants to try when searching for elusive ancestors, have a look here.

This one is for when you get *really* far back!

www.medievalsoldier.org

Contains a searchable database of soldiers who took part in the Hundred Years War (1337-1453).

Publications

Available at meetings, or by post from:
NPFHG Vicechairman, 21a Robertson Crescent,
Pitlochry, PH16 5HD (Tel. 01796 473293). Please add
£1 p&p if ordering by post within the UK.

Blair Atholl MIs	£4.00
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OCT. 2009-SEP.2010

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