MEMBERS VISITING ORKNEY THIS YEAR WILL HAVE PLENTY TO SEE, BUT NO HOLIDAY IS COMPLETE WITHOUT A VISIT TO OUR OFFICES ON THE 1ST FLOOR OF THE ORKNEY LIBRARY ON JUNCTION ROAD, HERE A TEAM OF DEDICATED RESEARCHERS ARE WAITING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON YOUR ORKNEY ROOTS, BRINGING WHATEVER INFORMATION YOU HAVE AND BE AMAZED AT WHAT THEY CAN UNCOVER.

YOU DON'T MEAN THE PIRATE BOW? WOW! A BISHOP OF ORKNEY

A CHIEF OF THE METIS PEOPLE? JAMES V! YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS.

STROMNESS MUSEUM
EXHIBITION
Sir John Login & Duleep Singh
www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/stromnessmuseum

APRIL 11 - 13
ORKNEY CEILIDH WEEKEND
Day workshops. Eve. Ceilidhs
www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/otd

MAY 03
ORKNEY AGGREGATES
RUGBY SEVENS TOURNAMENT
Orkney Rugby FC Pickaquoy, Kirkwall
www.orkneyrfc.co.uk

MAY 03 - JUNE 14
ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL
Lunch Time Concerts 1-2 Sats only
www.otmp.co.uk

MAY 17
NORWAY’S CONSTITUTION DAY
Parade, Service and concert
St Magnus Cathedral
www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/onfa

JUNE 28
NORTH ISLES SPORTS on SANDAY
www.orkney.sanday.co.uk

JUNE 30 - JULY 04
HANDS on ORKNEY CENTRE for NORDIC STUDIES
Learn about traditional life in Orkney
www.nordic.uhi.ac.uk

JUNE 01 - 03
SANDAY SOULKA
A celebration of the island’s food, farming and fishing.
www.sandaysoulka.com

JULY 20 - 26
STROMNESS SHOPPING WEEK
Community Gala Week with Fun for all the Family
www.stromnessshoppingweek.co.uk

JULY 18 - 20
PAPAY FUN DAY
Music, Dance, Sports, Cart Racing
Picnics, etc on Papay Westray
www.papaywestray.co.uk

AUGUST 01 - 03
THE DOUNBY SHOW
at Bignold Park

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS
August 01
SANDAY SHOW
August 02
EAST MAINLAND SHOW
August 05
SHAPINSAY SHOW
August 06
S. RONALDSAY & BURRAY
August 07
THE DOUNBY SHOW
August 09
ORKNEY COUNTY SHOW
at Bignold Park

ORKNEY VINTAGE RALLY
Engines, Tractors, Cars. Motor Bikes, Farm Machinery and lots more
www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/orkneyvintagclub

BORрис, PILOUGHING MATCH
Sands o’ Wright, South Ronaldsay
www.hall75.freeserve.co.uk/ploughingmatch.htm

BOYS’ PLOUGHING MATCH
Sands o’ Wright, South Ronaldsay
www.hall75.freeserve.co.uk/ploughingmatch.htm

ORKNEY INTERNATIONAL HANDS on ORKNEY
at Bignold Park

ORKNEY BLUES FESTIVAL
A weekend of Blues & Boogie
www.orkneyblues.co.uk

FESTIVAL OF ORKNEY STORYTELLING
Something for everyone. Various venues
www.orkneystorytellingfestival.co.uk

CHRISTMAS BA’ UPPIES V. DOONIES
Boys’ throw-up 10.30. Mens’ 13.00
www.bagame.com
Welcome to our Spring edition of Sib Folk News; I hope you enjoy the articles that we have included this time and will inspire you to get writing.

As this is the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 it would be an opportunity to get your family stories ready for what we hope will be a special centenary edition of Sib Folk News in September. Every inhabited island of Orkney lost 3 or more men and in total over 600 Orcadians gave their lives in the war to end all wars. If you have a story of a family member to record for posterity this is your opportunity.

Our volunteers in the office are getting ready for another busy summer, helping visitors discover their ancestors, so if you are planning a visit, please let us know when you are coming, together with any research you would like us to do for you. It will save spending a lot of time in the office and give you more opportunity to visit the sights and maybe your ancestral home, which may still exist—even as a ruin.

Our first meeting this year, in March, was a members's night with WW1 as the theme and we were fortunate to have Brian Budge standing by to answer any queries our members had.

Our editor struggles to find contributors to our newsletter and the committee are in a similar position regarding speakers for our meetings. If you know of anyone who would be willing to give a talk or if you will write an article for Sib Folk News we would be delighted to hear from you.

Plans are now under way for our annual summer outing in June. This year we will be having a tour of the West Mainland, always an interesting part of Orkney. The programme has still to be worked out but if you contact our office on 01856 879207 nearer the time we’ll be able to fill in the details.

Can I just add my plea for any articles on WW1 with an Orkney connection.

As Anne mentioned, this is the Centenary of the First World War which was a turning point in history. It claimed the lives of 16 million people across the globe.

Orcadians played a significant role in World War 1 and if you have any photographs, mementoes or stories of family members who were caught up in the conflict it would be a privilege to include them in, what I hope will be, a Centenary themed edition. Ed.

PS. Material for inclusion in any newsletter can be emailed directly to me at: johnsin@gotadsl.co.uk
I am almost too late tackling this Tumbledown—North House, or Northhouse as it was known locally and luckily I had the above photograph. As a ‘B’ listed building it should be ‘kept up’ by the owners and a ‘one for one’ was not an option. ‘Listing’ was on account of the kiln on the end of the barn, but there was also a knocking stone on the barn wall, indicating an early method of threshing which had later given way to a horse drawn mill.

During the last 30 or more years, the buildings had gradually fallen into a state of ruin. An interested buyer has now come forward with plans and expertise to convert the house and barn into a comfortable insulated dwelling while keeping the outward appearance. The former barn will be a kitchen while the kiln will serve as a larder.

The Cromarty family of North House were featured in Around the Orkney Peatfires (Mackintosh). Like other fit young men of that time, David Cromarty was constantly aware of being pursued by the Press Gang and had a handy hiding place behind the kitchen cupboard. When the gaugers came in, Mrs Cromarty, sure that her husband was well hidden, invited them in to search the house. They were on the point of leaving when 2 year old David, who had been caught up in the excitement, shouted ‘Da’s in the press’. Read the outcome for yourself! (p203 in my copy).

Descendants of the Cursiter family, who were there in 1881, could later be found at Lawgay in Evie. (Information - the late Ronnie Cursiter).

In the 1880s Deerness needed another shoemaker and William Bruce, grandfather of the late Billy Bruce of Greentoft, came to North House from his native Burray, and the small croft has belonged to the Bruce family since that time. William Bruce married a local girl, Elizabeth Dick of North Keigar and had three sons—William, who emigrated to Portland, Oregon; David, a plumber, who also emigrated and married a German girl, but was drowned in the Columbia River. John, the youngest, stayed at home, tending the croft and ‘mendin buits’ to many families in the neighbourhood. After John died, his partner, Annie McKay, lived there on her own for a few years until the house became no longer habitable.
Back in September 2006 Sib Folk News published my family tree of the Arctic explorer Dr John Rae, and in September 2013 I exhibited an enlarged version of this tree at the John Rae 200 Conference in Stromness. The latter event prompted three significant developments.

The first was from Bryce Wilson, who questioned my understanding that John Rae the Stromness bookseller was not related to Dr John Rae the explorer. I based this belief on the bookseller having been born in Caithness. But it now transpires that the wife of a descendant of the bookseller wrote a letter in 1993 recounting that her husband’s great-grandfather was a brother of [Dr] Rae’s father! Her father-in-law John Spence Rae Robertson came north from time to time and remembered dining with him - he was fourteen years old when John Rae died. The dates fit exactly, and the letter was written before the recent publicity about John Rae, so I have little doubt as to its veracity: the explorer and the bookseller, namesakes and contemporaries, were first cousins. The 1993 letter doesn’t tell us the name of the explorer’s uncle and bookseller’s father, but by a process of elimination it was probably William.

The second development again came from Bryce Wilson, who told me that contact had been made with the elusive Douglas W Rae who had visited Orkney in September 2000, signed the Visitors’ Books in Stromness Museum and St.Magnus Cathedral to the effect that he was a great great grandson of John Rae himself, and then left Orkney before anyone could obtain contact details. I have now been able to e-mail Douglas, who tells me there had been a misunderstanding: he is descended from John Rae’s younger brother Thomas. This development came too late for Bryce to correct p.116 of his excellent book “Stromness – A History”, but we can now presume that the explorer was correct when he said he had no children “that I know of”.

The third development arose during the editing of the conference papers. One of the speakers, Kaitlin McCormick, wrote that Hamilton Moffatt was a nephew of Dr John Rae. She kindly answered my query on this claim by copying me a Canadian newspaper obituary of Hamilton Moffatt which ended “He was a nephew of the late Dr. John Rae”, together with some references showing that this individual, the son of a Naval Commander, was born in June 1832, joined the Hudson’s Bay Company in Stromness in 1849, rose to be one of their Chief Traders before retiring in 1873, and died, childless, in Victoria BC in 1894. But several other details seemed odd or inconsistent: Steven Clifford, OFHS member 2354, had noted in Sib Folk News in June 2011 that Moffatt had been born in the Isle of Wight, another source claimed he was educated in Ireland, while a third writer had deduced he must have been the daughter of Rae’s sister Janet. This detail conflicted with my own research that in September 1832 Janet was in Stromness giving birth to her fifth child, Hugh Munro! In fact baptism and census records show that Hamilton Moffatt was baptised on the Isle of Wight in July 1832, son of John Moffatt and Margaret (the surname of the latter is tantalisingly omitted), while Dr John Rae had only two sisters: Janet, or Jess, or Jessie as she was variously known, who married the Stromness distiller Hector Munro in 1824, and Marion Sibbald, who married Dr John Hamilton from Hoy in 1831. So if Hamilton Moffatt was a nephew of John Rae then there must have been a third sister Margaret whose birth and marriage (if any) do not appear in the parish registers, and whose childhood escaped the Rae family entry in the Orphir census of 1821.

Meanwhile Kaitlin had noticed that one of the grandchildren of Marion Rae and Dr Hamilton was named Moffatt Hamilton – was there any connection? Checking the HBC Archive biographical sheets showed that Hamilton Moffatt and Marion’s son Gavin Hamilton had served together at Fort St.James from 1870 to 1872, and Gavin’s son Moffatt Hamilton was born there in 1872! So perhaps the obituarist should not have written of Hamilton Moffatt that he “was a nephew of Dr John Rae” but instead that he “was godfather to the son of a nephew of Dr John Rae”!

by James Irvine, Member No.96
The Rae families of Stromness

William GLEN m Janet Love
1765
Govan, Lanarkshire

Margaret Campbell
b. 11 Feb. 1781
in Glasgow,
+ second husband Sir Walter Scott 1814,
Sir John Franklin 1845, and Lady Franklin 1849 & 51; 1. The Haven, Stromness 1827-35 d. 14 Feb. 1855

John (2)
b. 31 Oct. 1772
in Douglas,
agent for HBC, Stromness, 1810-34;
owned land in Rental & Wyre d. 2 Oct. 1834

William (1)
b. 1770-
dy?

Mary
1778-

Jean
1781-

Marion
1783-

William
1786-

Marion Sibbald c1740-

Douglas, Lanarkshire

John RAE m Marion Sibbald
1800-

Glen, Edinburgh

Richard
1809-

Bjorkman
1811-1874

HBC 1827-45

Hamilton, Ontario

HBC 1830-37

HBC 1834-36

HBC 1836-38

Dr. John Macaulay
HAMILTON
1799-1867

Mcloughlin
1817-1844

McPherson
1815-

1821-1870

1817-1868

Torrance

Kable, Jane Alicia Thomson
1838-1919

daughter of Major GA Thomson of Ireland and Hamilton, Ontario

Thomas
1840-

- John c1840-

- Margaret G c1841-

- William

- Maria Eloisa c1842-

Douglas Henderson
1846-1861

- Glen c1842-

- Williams

- Thomas

John Rae had "no children that he knew of"

Douglas was the grandson of

Thomas was the great grandson of

John Spence was the great grandson of

Douglas was the great grandson of

Julia Carapanos
R. 18th Century

John Spence, Elizabeth and Janet were the ancestors of

Rae, Robertson and Thomson respectively

Sources:

Davia Brown, L. Johnstone, Rachel Jones
Kathleen McCormick, Helen Mondolfo, Bruce Wilson
Census records
Orkney Archives (0303, 0229, 0704) 1835
www.orkeystapecollection.org.uk
www.digmacoris.org.uk/ScotlandandEurope.clr > Canada

Anon. 1999. The Kilroy's of Stromness & Glenney
Burthet et al. 1993. No Ordinary Journey
Hewitton, WS 1998. Who Was Who in Orkney
Hossack, B 1950. Kirkwall in the Orkneys
McDougall, R. 2002. Fisher Passage
McDougall, N. 2002. Lady Franklin's Revenge

James Mervine
James miveine@hotmail.co.uk

Heidi was an ancestor of branches of

the Orkney families of:

Ald, Amos,
Baillie, Boyd, Brown, Corsi, Harcus, Johnston, Lawrie, Logie,
Pease, Robertson,
Toluck & Watson

James, Jan. 2014
jamesmervine@hotmail.co.uk

James, Jan. 2014
jamesmervine@hotmail.co.uk
For many years I have been attempting to find the family of my great grandfather, Alexander Bichan. It has been frustrating to say the least.

Alexander was born on 15th July 1839 at Kirkwall & St Ola, Orkney Island, to Alexander Bichan and Margaret Craigie. Alexander Snr was a sailor. The children were Mary, born 16th July 1833 and christened on 30 August 1833. Alexander, born 18 August 1834 and christened on 2 January 1837. Alexander, my great grandfather, was born on 15 July 1839. Johanna was born December 19th 1841 and christened on 6 February 1842.

In the 1841 Census for Kirkwall & St Ola, only Margaret, aged 26, and Alexander, aged 1, are listed, living at Cathrine Place, Kirkwall. There is no trace of Mary, Alexander (age 1), John, or Johanna after their christenings. What happened to them? The Orkney FHS tells me there are no deaths registered.

The family moved to Newcastle on Tyne before the 1851 Census. They are listed in the 1851 Census as Buchan. The family consisting of Alexander Snr, Margaret, Alexander, aged 13, George, aged 7 and Margaret, aged 1.

By the 1861 Census, the only family member I can trace in Scotland/England, is Margaret, back in Scotland, living with her uncle, David Craigie in Deerness Orkney.

Alexander came to Australia (date unknown), changed the spelling of his name to Buckham and in 1864 became a Water Policeman in Freemantle, Western Australia, before being transferred to Albany on 28th April 1865. Alexander resigned on 15th February 1866 and travelled to South Australia where he joined the Water Police at Port Adelaide.

By 3rd January 1868 he was a 2nd Class P.C. and by 1st January, 1874 he was a 1st Class P.C. He resigned on 30th September 1876.

On 23rd April 1867 he married Emily Friberg at St Luke’s Mission Church in Adelaide, South Australia. Emily married under her mother’s maiden name of Wyatt. Presumably this was because she was already married to a convict named Robert Dixon. Emily emigrated alone from England to Western Australia as a Governess in 1863 on the ‘Burlington’. We presume that she met Alexander in Western Australia. Perhaps he had something to do with the arrest of her then husband, Robert Dixon, for robbery in 1865, in Geraldton, W.A. which resulted in Robert being sent back to jail for 5 years.

Although Alexander changed the spelling of his name to Buckham, some of his children are registered as Bichan or Buchan, as well as Buckham. Alexander died on 27th February 1878 at ‘The White Horse Inn,’ Adelaide, SA, of TB. Alexander and Emily were the proprietors of the Inn when he died.

Margaret Bichan arrived in South Australia in 1866 as a government immigrant, the same year Alexander arrived there. She married Matthew Logan Aitken on 23rd September 1875 in Adelaide. Alexander was a witness and is listed as a Detective. After Matthew’s death in 1886 she got married again, this time to Francis Scott, on 5 March 1890 in Adelaide. I have the Australian connections, it is the Orkney connections that continue to frustrate me. Can anyone help? Are any of the Craigies missing a Margaret?

If you can help Elwyn she would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact her by mail at Mrs Elwyn Hunt 191 High St., Kangaroo Flat 3555, Victoria, Australia. or you can email her at ehunt@vtown.com.au

If you are looking for family connections, an article in Sib Folk News might produce the desired result. Include as much detail as possible and email to me at: johnsin@gotadsl.co.uk by 27th April for our June issue.
Jane thought that this would interest ‘the Wilsons’

Jane Harris, member no 1503, noticed the following article ‘the Wilsons’ in the Scottish Genealogy Society e-newsletter, and thought that it might be of interest to the ‘Wilson’ members of the OFHS. There are nine listed in our members directory and perhaps the best known of these, Bryce Wilson has just published his new book Stromness - A History (you can read the review on page number 8 of this issue.

Liz Watson, Publicity Secretary of the Scottish Genealogy Society writes of the Wilsons:

I have recently been corresponding with Alice Dove of Lewis & Clark Genealogical Society at Helena, MT who is looking for a family called Wilson (oh no I hear you cry), originally from Scotland, and who homesteaded in Alberta, Canada. I did mention to them that the Wilson name is very common here and that anyone would have mega problems tracking them down. However, they made further investigations into the papers and photographs they have and have sent more information. Over the correspondence I have gleaned the following:

The family, as mentioned above, were called Wilson and farmed in Alberta, Canada. The names they have given are Billie and Jim Wilson (also Robert and Thomas). Jim was married to a Susan. It seems they returned to Scotland in 1920 but Alice then found a letter from Susan with an address at Rusness?, Sanday, Orkney saying they were making arrangements to return home (to Canada). Alice then sent a further e-mail:

Re the Wilson family from Orkney. Sometimes a tiny clue leads to bigger things. I was drawn back to the book written about the Three Hills area, title: As the Years Go By printed in 1970. I have the book because my Grandparents were homestead neighbors & friends of the Wilsons. The book is a collection of info re the early homesteaders.

I have not read the book due to my busy schedule, but on Page 275 I found the first mention of Billy Wilson: ‘Andrew Kilgore left Scotland and went via New York to Wyoming, the home of a friend Billy Wilson, a fellow Scot, now employed as a shepherder.’

Andrew Kilgore signed on to drive freight wagons, as did my Grandfather who was later a neighbour: ‘Billy Wilson & Andrew Kilgore, besides being two Scotsmen in a strange land, shared a desire to have farms of their own and hearing about Canadian Homesteads they eventually set off for what is now Saskatchewan. They came to the area with their own pack train, coming into the Three Hills district. This area had only recently been opened to homesteading. On Aug 1st 1905 William Willson registered on the N.W. Quarter of Sect. 30-31-23-W4.’

The Wilson’s were neighbors & friends of my Putnam Grandparents. On page 310 “The Wilson Boys - Billy, Robert, Thomas, & James” and a litney of names and dates, written by Thomas Wilson, living in Vancouver at the time the book was published.

If you feel the names & locations might help someone with their Wilson genealogy study, please do feel free to print the info. I hope the info & pictures might be a treasure for anyone researching the Wilson Family in Canada, or adding more info to what they have.”

You can email Alice Dove at:- L_and_a_62@bresnan.net or write to her at Lewis & Clark Genealogical Society PO Box 5313 Helena MT.

If any of this information rings a bell, please get in touch with Alice – she has a wealth of information plus photographs that she is willing to pass on to descendants of the Wilson family.

Regards, Liz Watson, Publicity Secretary
Bryce Wilson’s History of Stromness
By James Irvine Member No 94

Students of Orcadian history were spoilt for the choice of new books this Christmas. In quick succession we had *Orkney Crofters in Crisis*, a transcript and commentary on the Napier Commission of 1883, by Willie Thomson; *Mirth, Madness and St.Magnus*, on Sheriff Thom and his bequest of 1903 to restore St.Magnus Cathedral, by Paul Sutherland; and *Orkney, a Magisterial Interpretation of the islands and their History*, by Howie Firth. But while these volumes have much to commend them it was Bryce Wilson’s Stromness – A history, that will appeal to many genealogists.

Born and bred a Stromnessian, and curator of its museum for over 30 years, Bryce Wilson is eminently qualified to write this comprehensive and authoritative account of his home town. His eagerly awaited volume lives up to its expectations. Readers are led though the early days of the harbour, its role in the Napoleonic Wars, the Hudson’s Bay Company, arctic whaling, the town council, the Harbour Commissioners, the Museum, the Library, the herring industry, pilots, lighthouse tenders, lifeboats, shipbuilders, ship owners, the bellmen, the shopkeepers, tailors, brewers and distillers, the banks, the schools and the kirks and their ministers and schisms.

The contributions to the burgh by the Geddes, Cruikshank, Rae, Stanger and Shearer families are all covered, as well as individuals such as the litigant Alexander Graham, the surgeon Sir John Login, and the shipping agent Christian Robertson. And we are regaled with the adventures of Stromnessian seafarers such as George Stewart, Joseph Miller, James Robertson, James Johnston, Frazer Sinclair, Eliza Fraser, John Renton, Tammy Corrigall, Alic Rousey, the Sutherlands and the Ritchies, and Geordie Chalmers.

The tale is punctuated with shrewd cameos of the visits of the pirate John Gow, the jacobites in 1746, the naturalist Sir Joseph Banks, the fleet of the late Captain Cook, William Bligh, Sir Walter Scott, the artist William Daniell, Sir John and later Lady Jane Franklin, the ornithologists Robert and Joseph Dunn, Lord Kitchener and the financier Maynard Keynes.

And we also learn of PopDay, the Yule Tree contest, the Ba’, the Volunteers, the Natural History Society, the Young Men’s Mutual Improvement Association, the Good Templars, the Golf Club, the Cycle Club, the Philharmonic Society, and the SWRI.

Continued on facing page
Can you help Janette Thompson with names for this photograph?

A distant relative, Peter McCabe of Canberra, sent me this photo last week. He only knew that his great grandfather, Donald Morgan was the gentleman third from the left. He has had the photo for many years. He knows that Donald belonged to the Templars, a 19th century temperance organisation. Do any of the OFHS people have any idea to the uniform and the names of the other men in the photograph?

If not he would be happy for it to be included in the magazine for identification, if that is possible.

Donald Morgan, (1832, Thurso–1909, Goulburn, NSW) was the second husband of my 2 x great grandmother, Anne Groundwater, (Muir). (I am descended on the Groundwater line.)

Donald, with his family, except for eldest son Alexander, migrated to Sydney, after the death of his wife Anne, (1823–1881). They sailed on the Smyrna arriving in 1883.

A little background:

He was a watchmaker and jeweller, apprenticed to Robert P. Groundwater, (1821–1850). After Robert’s death he married Anne, in 1851.

The eldest son Alexander Morgan, a watchmaker and his wife Agnes Brown Scollay have many descendants in Orkney still. Years ago we met Agnes Scott and Hilary Harcus, both now deceased.

Hope that you will be able to help us, Peter in particular, Best wishes to all,
Janette Thomson, 121

Book review continued from Page

The final six chapters address the various local implications of the two World Wars and their aftermath, including The Stromness Salvage Company, the town’s 27 years of prohibition, The Orkney Blast, the development of bus, air and ferry services, Market Day and Shopping Week, shopkeepers, businesses and trades, public housing, boat building, the Orkney Fisherman’s Society, the Pier Arts Centre, the uranium mining threat, recreational diving, ICTF and EMEC, as well as personalities such as Dodo Marwick, Doddie Robertson, Frederick Thornley, Ian MacInnes, John Hourie, Pia Anderson, Robbie Sutherland, George Mackay Brown, Sylvia Wishart and Stanley Cursiter.

All this material could have been presented as dry facts, but Bryce Wilson’s text is entertaining throughout and a delight to read. His copious illustrations, many in colour, of the town and its inhabitants, buildings and artefacts, include reproductions of two dozen paintings, many little known, a dozen lively sketches, mostly in his own hand, and five maps.

Stromness – A History is published by The Orcadian to their usual high standard at £19.50. Royalties are donated to the Stromness Museum.

New DNA interest group

Members might be interested to know that a new group has been founded in Scotland which will focus on the use of DNA in genealogy.

The first meeting was held in The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, in January of this year and was open to anyone with experience, or an interest in using DNA for genealogical or family history research.

The goal of the group is to establish a forum for sharing and comparing results in genealogy within the British Isles with a particular focus on Scotland.

You can learn more about the programme and find various links at www.gendnascotland.wordpress.com or for anyone interested in a Genealogical Postgraduate Studies Programme, on or off campus, all the relevant information can be found at http://www.strath.ac.uk/genealogy.

SCOTLAND DNA INTEREST GROUP

Supported By

ISOGG (International Society of Genetic Genealogy).
University of Strathclyde Genealogical Studies.
The Scottish DNA Project.
By Patricia Long, Member No 1531

American universities work hard to encourage their former students to give generously to them. Like all the others, the University of North Dakota has exclusive societies for donors, entry depending on how much they have given to the university. To become a member of the William Budge Circle, the grateful graduate must have given at least one million dollars to the university. Why is a South Ronaldsay man honoured in this way?

In the 1861 census John and Jane Budge are living with John’s parents, James and Hellen nee Richan, on the 14-acre farm of Upper Town, Hoxa. They have six children, Tomima, James, John, William, George and Henry. By the time of the next census they have moved to East Flaws and three of the family have gone. Tomima had died in January 1863, James was lost in the China Sea in October that year and William had joined the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1869.

William didn’t stay with the company long. Accounts differ as to whether he left of his own accord but by June 1870 he was in Pembina, a settlement that had grown on the site of an HBC trading post. It is still a very small town, on the road from Winnipeg to Grand Forks, North Dakota, and in 1870 you could count the inhabitants on the fingers of one hand. Until 1823 they had thought they were Canadians but when the 49th Parallel was drawn, they found they were in the Dakota Territory.

Over the next ten years most of the Budge family found their way to the Dakota Territory and to the town of Grand Forks. It got its name from the junction of the Red River and the Red Lake River and is now a city of more than 50,000 but it was very small and new then. It was founded in 1870 and William was the first Budge to arrive, only four years later.

A website, www.reshapingthetornadobelt.com, has biographies of pioneers of Grand Forks. These are mainly cuttings from local papers and give a real flavour of pioneer life.

William found work in Pembina because George Winship, the assistant manager of the fur-trading post, took a liking to him and persuaded his boss to take William on as a cook. When a stagecoach began running from Breckenridge, Minnesota to Winnipeg the two men went into partnership to build a log cabin rest station on the Turtle River, 14 miles north of Grand Forks.

An account of their business is quoted on the website, “After erecting their cabin, which was the only human habitation in 1871 between Grand Forks and Pembina, unable to agree on the name for their place, as the story runs, they agreed to label it ‘Winship’s Hotel’ so as to meet the view of those coming from the south and that ‘Budge’s Tavern’ should be the sign displayed for the observation of those coming from the north. They disagreed in many things but united in one, ‘We are not here for our helth,’ was to be conspicuously printed on a card to be hung on the wall over the fireplace”.

Budge was an expert in turning the flapjacks while Winship was equally good as a valet de chambre at both house and barn, Budge assisting however between meals. When there were any objections to paying $2 for flapjacks a la Budge and stable accommodations a la Winship, the unfortunate objector was invited to read the card over the fireplace and move on… It sometimes happened that objections were made to the economical spelling of the word health in the sign upon the wall. If the kick was made to Budge he added a half the bill for extras.

The business did well but there wasn’t really enough profit for two, so Winship sold his share to Budge in 1873. The following year William Budge sold the station and moved to Grand Forks, where he and his partner Jacob Eshelman bought land west of the town and began to deal in real estate.
William's brother arrived in 1875. He and John had emigrated to the United States about 1873 and George had worked as a sailor on the Great Lakes. The family seems to have had a head for business and George evidently spotted a business opportunity in the small but growing town and became a druggist. He must have done well because in 1886 he is described as a self-made man and one of the leading residents of Grand Forks.

George moved his business to Neihart, Montana and died of pneumonia in 1902, aged just forty-seven, despite the strenuous efforts reported in The Saint Paul Daily Globe.

"FAST RACE FOR A LIFE Special Train Carries Invalid to Lower Altitude.

One hundred and thirty-five miles in four hours is the record time made by a special train on the Montana Central last evening between Neihart and Great Falls, and George Budge now lies in a hospital in the latter city with a chance for life for which the run was made. Budge was taken suddenly ill with pneumonia, and by noon the disease had made such alarming inroads that attending physicians agreed that there was but one manner in which his life could be saved, and that was instant removal to a lower altitude, Neihart being nearly 7,500 feet above the sea level. A special train was telegraphed for, and left Neihart with the patient aboard at 3 o'clock, arriving at Great Falls at 7pm. Unfortunately, it was all to no avail and George died a few days later.

William got involved in local politics and was Chairman of the County Board in 1875 but then headed out on another venture.

According to Curt Eriksmoen, writing in The Bismarck Tribune, "With the news of the discovery of gold in the Black Hills, Billy saw new opportunities. He went to work for Oscar Ward, who hauled freight between Bismarck and Deadwood. On their first trip, the wagon train was surrounded by hostile Indians who attacked the freighters. Several of Ward's party were killed or wounded and the situation looked grim until Billy Budge took aim at the leading warrior, White Fish. Budge's shot was true and, with the death of White Fish, the Indians left."

In 1878, William returned to Grand Forks and went into business again in real estate and building supplies. His brother John arrived in 1879. According to the report of John's funeral in the Grand Forks Herald in 1922, he had spent the previous seven years in Chicago. He began as a carpenter in Grand Forks and was later described as a contractor and builder who 'carried his full responsibility in the upbuilding of the community'.

The last two surviving family members arrived the following year: Jane and her youngest son Harry. John Budge senior had died in 1878 and his widow, well into her sixties, had made what must have been a daunting journey to join her thriving sons in the mid-west. Harry was a blacksmith but died of consumption in 1885 when he was just twenty-seven. Jane died in 1883, aged sixty-eight.

That year the Dakota Territorial Legislature decided that Grand Forks should be the home of the territory's first university. By this time William owned land all round Grand Forks and he gave a site for the university, even offering the choice of two.

When the northern part of the Dakota territory was moving towards statehood, William was one of the three candidates elected to represent Grand Forks at the Constitutional Convention in 1889. In 1890 he married Minnie Gow from New York and they had two children, Alexander and Jane.

William was now one of the most successful and respected members of the community and in 1891 he was elected to the Board of Regents of the university. Curt Eriksmoen wrote that the historian Louis Geiger labelled him "The Rockefeller of the University of North Dakota" because of his work as a Regent.

One of the first duties of the board was to hire a new university president. The board chose Webster Merrifield, a small, shy, refined UND professor who was almost the exact opposite of Budge. Billy was big, uneducated and rough in speech and manner. However, the two bonded almost immediately. They were a dynamic tandem in getting appropriations to expand UND. In 1893 they got the trustees to approve $6,000 for an observatory and a boys' dorm. To receive this funding, money was diverted from other sources, including salaries. Billy believed this money could be made up later, but the Panic of 1893 created a financial crunch for the state. In 1894 the Legislature voted appropriations for UND but Gov. Roger Allin vetoed the school's funding. With no money to pay the salaries for the school's teachers, Budge led a drive to solicit private subscriptions to save the university. In the meantime, he also paid a number of bills out of his own pocket. Through his efforts, $26,000 was raised and the professors received a portion of the money they were due.

Budge took it upon himself to take care of many things that were normally done by hired staff. He helped repair buildings and planted trees. He also became more active in lobbying the Legislature to increase funding. Budge became very successful in getting the state to allocate more money for UND. A new dormitory was erected on campus in 1899 and named Budge Hall. To relieve the school's
isolation from Grand Forks in 1903, Budge organised a company to install a trolley line from the city to the campus. To build a gymnasium and an administration building, he authorised spending in excess of the $50,000 the university was allotted from the land endowment. Instead of being reprimanded by the Legislature, that body simply raised the ceiling from $50,000 to $150,000."

William Budge left North Dakota in 1908. It is suggested that he sensed opportunities were dwindling but he could have finally tired of winters with average daily temperatures between 2°F and 20°F (-17°C and -7°C). He moved to Medford, Oregon where the average winter temperature is about the same as ours and bought a fruit farm. When this didn’t work he raised hogs. After a while he leased out the hog farm and moved to Berkeley, California where it is a bit warmer still. He died in California in 1938.

William Budge’s name lives on at the university in Grand Forks but his descendants are carrying the name in warmer places. His son Alexander went to Hawaii in 1916 as a mechanical engineer with a degree from Stamford and, displaying the usual Budge family business acumen, became president of Castle and Cooke, one of the largest businesses in the state, which went on to become the Dole Food Company, the largest producer of fruit and vegetables in the world.

You can look forward to more interesting stories about enterprising Orcadians, by Pat Long, in future editions of Sib Folk News.

Just a year ago this photograph of the St Ola appeared in issue No 63 and I queried if any reader could date the photo and name the crew. Apart from a note from Mike Clouston identifying Captain Swanson, First Mate Banks and John Robson (who appears too be a James D Robson) nothing more was forthcoming until I received an email from Bruce Gorie, Member No 961. Bruce tells me that he came across two items that might help. The first is a similar photo dated 1937 and the second is a cutting from the Orcadian. This reports on his grandfather’s retirement from the St Ola in 1943 and lists the crew that served alongside him together with their dates of service. By a process of elimination Bruce thinks that the crew in the photograph, all from Stromness, will include some or all of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Dates of Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George B Swanson</td>
<td>Master</td>
<td>Victoria House</td>
<td>31/10/11 - 01/01/43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Banks</td>
<td>Mate</td>
<td>Back Road</td>
<td>19/05/21 - 28/11/39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert G Slater</td>
<td>Purser</td>
<td>33 Franklyn Road</td>
<td>31/03/30 - 02/05/41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Robertson</td>
<td>Engineer</td>
<td>Radnor House</td>
<td>25/12/41 - 31/12/43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rognvald Clouston</td>
<td>Steward</td>
<td>Alfred Street</td>
<td>14/01/35 - 15/02/41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Logie</td>
<td>Seaman</td>
<td>34 Victoria Street</td>
<td>15/11/27 - 31/12/43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Tait</td>
<td>Seaman</td>
<td>55 Alfred Street</td>
<td>11/10/30 - 31/12/43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Marwick</td>
<td>Seaman</td>
<td>Seaman</td>
<td>27/10/36 - 01/06/37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James D Robson</td>
<td>Seaman</td>
<td>Knockhall</td>
<td>28/08/36 - 31/12/43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neil McGregor</td>
<td>Fireman</td>
<td>Newtonhill</td>
<td>19/01/24 - 31/12/43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John S Tait</td>
<td>Fireman</td>
<td>South End</td>
<td>21/02/20 - 06/09/40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. G M Baker</td>
<td>Cabin Boy</td>
<td>So. End Bungalow</td>
<td>28/12/36 - 24/08/37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While Bruce is unable to match all the names to faces he is sure that some member can.

A Rosie by any other name...perhaps?

While exchanging emails with Evelyn Andrews, Member No 2297, who has produced a mind boggling amount of research on the Rosies, she happened to mention that despite this she was unable to help David Rosie, Member 2786, from Dumfries.

David has been trying for years to find a connection from the Berwick Rosies to the Orkney Rosies.

In a rather rash moment I said that if there was such a link I felt sure that our members would unearth it.

So if any of our readers would like to get their research shovels out I am sure that David would be delighted to hear from you. Email him at david.avrilrosie@tiscali.co.uk
Cookery for boys, obviously schools were much more enlightened then. Pity that it was not part of the curriculum at my school and I could do a bit more than just boil an egg.

Does any member know anything about the photograph? If so I would be delighted to know more. Ed.

Here we are with another two photographs from the Orkney Library Photographic Archives and they would be delighted to have names and location.

Does anyone recognise this happy gathering? What was the occasion. Obviously a fancy dress night and the mention of the roll-on ferry means that it is after 1975. Whoever they are they are certainly enjoying themselves.
What does this picture say to you? Who are these pioneers in the leather flying coats and where are they flying to? This is the picture which sparked off my search for the Tullochs of North Ronaldsay.

On the left is my mother-in-law Cathie Small or Kate to her Orcadian family; her mother Mary, sister Maimie or Mary and daughter Moira. There is a theme in the names here! Three ‘Marys’ and a Catherine, all going to North Ronaldsay in July 1936.

North Ronaldsay is the most northerly of the Orkney Islands, a small piece of land on the edge of the Atlantic. Old traditions prevail and Orcadian names still predominate, Tulloch having been one of the commonest names in the 19th century.

Mary Sen. was born a Tulloch on the island in 1867, in the two room croft at Longar, in the north of the island. She was the first child of Sarah Tulloch of Longar born in 1844 and John Tulloch of Ancum. John was a sailor/crofter born in 1826 and, according to Mary’s birth certificate, was not in Orkney when she was born. Sarah was living with her parents at Longar at the birth. I thought at first John might have been with the Hudson’s Bay Company. But there is no sign of him there. Was he with the whalers in South Georgia? I’ve drawn a blank there too. Either way this would have left Sarah to cope alone with their daughter Mary. The family moved to a new 6 acre croft, Lochend, built by John, on his return. It was in 1870 that John and Sarah married and the next child, John, was born. So now Grandmother Mary lived at Lochend, with her parents and her five siblings - John (1870), William (1873), Sarah (1875), Robbie and his twin Tommy (1877) - until she went to work in service in Edinburgh when she was in her early teens. A family of eight in two rooms. But just to add another little mystery, young twin Tommy is found in Census returns 1881 and 1891 at Longar with his mother’s brother, uncle John and Jemima Tulloch and their family. This croft housed a family of 10 so why was Tommy farmed out to them?

John Tulloch left for Fife where he married; Willie stayed in Lochend and married Mima; Sarah married Thomas Tulloch of Garso but died young in 1928; Robbie left to work on Shapinsay where he married a widow, Annie Work in 1922, and farmed Quoybanks. This is where my husband Robert’s family spent many happy holidays.

In Edinburgh Mary went to work in the Trades Maid-en Hospital on Rillbank, now part of the Sick Kids. According to the 1891 Census she was a cook.

Back in North Ronaldsay in the nearby croft, Garso was another Tulloch family. Although the families were closely related they did not seem ‘close’ in the friendly sense.

The youngest son of Garso was Robert who also left for the south and work. In Edinburgh Robert worked as a brewery labourer. He and Mary married in 1896 and their first daughter Jessie was born in Buccleuch Street in 1898. Mary or Maimie came along in 1900 and Catherine Jane (my mother-in-law) in 1902. Robert sadly died of TB in 1908 when his girls were young and Mary was left to bring up the children on her own. She continued to work in service. However, saving money as best she could, Mary managed to take her daughters to North Ronaldsay for holidays, no mean feat in those days, but Mary was a formidable woman, never afraid of hard work.
In another twist of fate we recently found details of a burial plot in Echobank or Newington Cemetery bought by Robert and Mary in 1898 for Mary's youngest twin brother, Tommy. This was the Tommy who lived with his uncle at Longar during his childhood. Tommy worked on the railways in Edinburgh and was living with his sister Mary, when he was killed in a tragic accident at Duddingston on a foggy night. He was a signalman and was sitting holding a lamp for the approaching trains when he was hit and seriously wounded by one. He died a few hours later in the Royal Infirmary aged 21. He is buried at Newington, to be followed by Robert in 1908, and lastly by his sister Mary in 1949.

This is Mary and Robert with their two elder daughters, Jessie and Maimie not long before Cathie’s birth, looking happy, I think. The next picture is an older Mary with her granddaughter Moira.

So Mary and her daughters undertook many visits ‘north’. Their first visits were by boat from Leith - a long and often rough journey on the St Ola or Earl Sigurd, first to Kirkwall and then to North Ronaldsay. But in 1936 they ventured north first by boat and then by air! Gander was the air line! What an adventure for Moira aged just three. By this time the eldest sister Jessie had emigrated to Canada in 1927 along with her cousin Mary Ann, the daughter of Mary’s sister Sarah.

The plane left from Kirkwall, from a field just outside the town. From the photograph it seems that they may have been the only passengers. Don’t you love the leather flight coats? The plane, looking as if it was held together with glue, took off and arrived about 30 minutes later.

This tradition of flying was carried in my husband Robert’s time. His first flight to Kirkwall was in 1944, when he was put beside the baggage to balance out the weight. More recently he and I visited North Ronaldsay, flying from Kirkwall on a sunny day in May 2006 – a wonderful experience but perhaps not as daring as that journey his mother made in 1936.

In the 1800s the Tullochs eked a living from fishing and about 6 acres of ‘arable’ land in the north of the island. Life was hard for these crofting families. As the children grew they went to work on larger crofts or left for the south. Many of the girls went into service on larger farms. The more adventurous crossed the Atlantic to Canada or the USA. And in those days the population was mostly one of Tullochs - 60% in fact. The bleeding of young men and women from the island continued and depopulation has meant that today there are only 60 islanders, few with the Tulloch name. Interestingly though, when we visited the island we found a few relatives for Robert!

But in 1936 there were plenty of relatives to visit - aunts and uncles, cousins and siblings, all eager to greet their southern cousins. Mary took her daughters and granddaughter to her old home at Lochend. There they stayed with Mary’s brother Willie and his wife Mima and their daughter Sarah. And although the cousins rarely saw each other after 1936, they corresponded all their lives. Many a parcel of cheese and butter arrived in Edinburgh over the years sent by Sarah and Jim Deyell, and after our marriage Robert and I were also recipients of these gifts.

Mary Tulloch died in 1949, still living in Buccleuch Street with her daughter Maimie. She is buried in that family plot beside her husband and her brother.
Our years spent going to school in wartime were undramatic, but with the hindsight of over 70 years there is little doubt that the circumstances of the time had a not-so-subtle effect on our future lives. Many aspects of the period were not normal, such as a public school in every parish and leaving at the age of 14. Deerness was one such parish where pupils walked to school and were taught three “Rs”. A new headmaster came to Deerness during my last year there and I “discovered” English. Then I left age 14 in May 1941 with no thoughts on my parents’ part of their eldest daughter doing anything other than work at home on the farm, though there were three younger siblings including a brother who was probably destined for the farm before he was born. The main concern of adults at the time was the on-going second World War with memories of the previous one still very vivid. Then in early July the parish grapevine spread the news that a chap in my class was to go to Kirkwall Grammar (KGS)) in August. I had a spontaneous and clearly-remembered reaction - “if he can manage KGS, I can”. It was not a boast, just a statement of fact based on class performance.

Quietly, with no more discussion, and the support of our parents, I began a procedure which was to steer me in secondary education at KGS. Since there was no school bus, the first necessity was to find accommodation in Kirkwall. Being country people we had no close connections with town’s folk and I was sorry for our Mother having to more or less beg for “digs” for her daughter. Wartime rules had decreed however that every home with a spare landlady to eke out food rations. A cardboard box of eggs was possible but tricky and added a little to the weekly payment of ten shillings (10/-) for “keep”.

The next necessity was to arrange transport, a simple decision—a bicycle. I became the proud possessor of a basic but strong second-hand bicycle, my own and not to be shared.

In a short month all the arrangements were in place and August 1941 saw five of us from Deerness cycling the 10 miles into the toon on a Sunday evening, home again on Friday late afternoon. Weather did not seem to matter, we just got on with it. I loved the company, for the oldest two were in 5th year and gave us young ones an insight into bikes a lift home to Deerness, which we accepted but not always appreciated because we rather enjoyed our own company. On Sunday evenings the five of us met at the top of the Hammer Road in Deerness, our needs for the week strapped on to the back carriers of our bikes—basic clothing, books and sometimes an owld hen for the landlady to eke out food rations. A cardboard box of eggs was possible but tricky and added a little to the weekly payment of ten shillings (10/-) for “keep”.

After two years, what seemed like a permanent arrangement changed suddenly. Deerness parents decided to hire a local bus at their own expense to transport their sons and daughters to KGS. This was seen as a progressive step forward in achieving Secondary education with the big advantage of country pupils entering 1st year age 12 instead of 2nd year age 14. So Edna Petrie, the only one left of the five cyclists, had to give up cycling and join the daily bus because numbers were important for economic reasons. Her trustworthy well-loved bike became redundant for KGS but was pounced on by the rest of the family.

At the end of that first school week, I realised it was a very different set-up from the one I had become familiar with. A big increase in pupil numbers meant a much younger group, very spirited, meaning noisy, and the inexperienced bus driver had no control of behaviour on board. Timing was also erratic and many a morning we were locked out, getting in only after prayers finished, with the Headmaster, unlocking the door, saying “you Deerness hooligans, late again - take the temperature of that thermometer for a week”. (A huge thermometer wonder if it is still there?) Continued on Page 19
**Friends Reunited**

We are now within months of the anniversary of what was called “The Great War” or “The War to end all Wars”. We remember all who took part in it and particularly those who laid down their lives in it. Here, however, is a story that you won’t find in the history books.

**William Watters**, an Orkney man in the Army, was passing a compound full of horses newly arrived in France, when one horse whinnied as he passed. Willie paused — the marks on her face looked familiar. He felt her foreleg. The scar was there where she had been caught on a barbed wire fence. This was a horse he had worked with back home in Orkney, at the Hall of Ireland.

The horse had recognised him and had “spoken” to draw his attention.

And we refer to them as dumb animals!

This interesting snippet came to me in a round about way. I received it from **Fred Johnston**, Member No 979. He tells me it was passed to him by **Ronald Wishart** who also mentions that the Hall of Ireland is the farm across the road from the Mill of Ireland. Ronald attributes the story to **Peter Leith**, Member No 65. Whatever its provenance I think you will agree that it is a heart-warming little anecdote.   Ed.

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**Can you tell Amanda anything more about these photographs?**

**Amanda Kirk** (nee Pottinger) Member No 1185 knows that the woman seated in the middle of the back row of the float is her gr. grandmother, **May Wylie** (nee Harcus) 1890-1965. But what was the occasion; perhaps Shopping Week, and what was the story behind the banner?

The second picture might contain a well-kent face or two. The only person she knows is her gr grandfather **Andrew Petrie Wylie** 1892-1976. Perhaps some of our members can still name the others.

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**Members Directory**

Although we no longer issue a printed Members Directory you can still find a full listing on our website www.orkneyfhs.co.uk and clicking on the link Members Page and then click Members Directory at the top under the header Sib Folk.

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If you have any ‘mystery’ Orkney photos our members might be able to put a name to them.

If you scan them as good quality jpgs and email them to me at johnsin@gotadsl.co.uk I will try to include them in Sib Folk News whenever a space is available.
I have recently joined the Orkney Family History Society. My wife Sue is the great-great-great-granddaughter of a Kirkwall couple Alexander Groate Rendall and wife Mary Ann Miller who came to South Australia in 1852, arriving 14 January on the Charlotte Jane with their children Alexander Groate junior, Margaret, Jemima and Mary. Rendall as a middle name was used many times by descendants of the family in this country. We are very interested in Sue’s Orcadian ancestry and are going to visit Orkney next year to see the places where her Rendalls lived.

Alexander Groate senior was born in 1818 and baptised on 12 April that year in Kirkwall. His parents were Hugh Rendall and Alison Kerr. His siblings were Gilbert Stirling, baptised 30 September 1810, James Murray, baptised 4 October 1811, Jane, baptised 19 July 1813 and Robert, baptised 28 July 1822. The names Stirling, Murray and Groate (sometimes spelt Grote or Groat) may commemorate people from earlier generations. In the 1841 census Hugh Rendall aged 60, living in Wellington Street, Kirkwall was recorded as a cotton weaver. His wife Alison may have been born away from Orkney; their daughter Jane was in the 1841 household, with a James aged 4. Alexander senior and Mary Ann didn’t seem to be in Kirkwall in that census, but were living in Victoria Street, Kirkwall in the 1851 census. Alexander was a slater; his wife was born in Evie parish. Alexander junior (8) and Margaret (6) were both scholars, and Jemima was just 2 years old. With the family on census night was Mary Ann’s nephew James Miller, single, a tailor aged 25, born in Evie parish.

The State Library of South Australia in Adelaide holds a little shipboard diary of the voyage of the Charlotte Jane from Gravesend, London (19 October 1851) and Plymouth (21 October) to Port Adelaide, but it really only records weather conditions, and latitude and longitude details during the voyage. The Rendalls had to pay an “extra contribution beyond a £1 a head”, being charged £7 for “extra children”. (The ship’s manifest, perhaps by mistake, has this Rendall family from “Shetland”, in the list on the line below a George Dalzell and family from that same area.) Fifteen families or individuals from “Orkney” are listed on the Charlotte Jane manifest. Before the family left Orkney, Alexander senior, according to a family story, picked up a stone pebble (agate?) which he brought out with him to South Australia. Later it was cut and polished and set in gold as a brooch. My wife Sue has inherited this precious Orkney relic.

In Adelaide the Rendall family became members of the Chalmer’s Free Church in North Terrace, under their minister the Rev John Gardiner. The Communion Roll of the church records their membership “by certificate, 1st Sabbath of February 1853” (with their surname spelt as Randall) and their address as Peacock’s Buildings, Hindley Street, Adelaide. Alexander senior worked in Adelaide as a storeman and he and his family lived at several addresses in the “square mile” of Adelaide, the last being in Carrington Street. He died aged 80 in the Adelaide Hospital of a “cerebral softening” on 17 November 1895. His widow Mary Annie lived on until 1903, when she died on 10 July aged 89 years. She had gone to live with her son Alexander junior at his residence in Dudley Street, Semaphore, but died at Parkside Asylum of “senile decay and mania”.

The son Alexander junior was a teenager when he became the first employee, as a clerk, for a John Colton who had started a small saddlery business in Adelaide in 1841. Later the enterprise expanded when J. Colton & Son amalgamated with the ironmongery business of Harrold Brothers Limited, the new firm becoming known as Harrold, Colton and Co., Ltd., occupying Colton’s former factory in Currie Street, Adelaide. Alexander Groate Rendall rose up in the firm to become its book-keeper and manager of its Port Adelaide branch.

The premises had a fire in the Currie Street warehouse causing an enormous (for those times) financial loss of £80,000. (So terrible was the sight of the fire that photographs of the burning building were taken and sold as postcards.)
In 1911 the firm amalgamated with another hardware company and became known as Colton Palmer & Preston, becoming the largest and oldest hardware store in South Australia. Alexander died on 23 January 1925 at a private hospital in Wakefield Street, Adelaide aged 84 years, having suffered a paralytic stroke ten years before. His estate after probate was worth £1,590-0-0.

Not much family research has been done yet on the Rendall family in South Australia. My wife Sue's line back to the Rendalls is as follows: Alexander junior married Mary Jane, daughter of the late John Baker, on 2 June 1867 at the bridegroom’s residence in Gouger Street, Adelaide. (She was born in Taunton, Somerset and died on 28 July 1919 at Semaphore of diabetes mellitus and cardiac failure.) There were three children: Alexander George born 1868 who died aged 9 years, Marie Alison Kerr and Edith Blanch Elizabeth (Bessie) born 1871. The daughter Marie Alison Kerr was born on 3 October 1869 at Norwood; the informant was Alexander's sister Jemima Rich, who had married Eli William Rich two months earlier. Marie A. K. Rendall married Sue's great-grandfather William Cooper Quin on 30 April 1889 at the Bible Christian Manse at Glanville, an Adelaide suburb. There were three children, Elsie Marian, Janet Myrtle and Sue's grandfather Kenneth William Rendall Quin, the youngest, born 13 November 1894. K.W.R. Quin’s three children all had ‘Rendall’ as their last name, and it has been passed on in succeeding generations, including our elder daughter.

I was delighted to see in the September 2013 Newsletter that the Chair of the Society is a Rendall (Anne). In George Black's The Surnames of Scotland the entry for RENDALL has it as possibly the earliest native Orcadian surname. It would be nice to have some confirmation of this! (Black says the earliest mention of it is in 1325-6.) It is interesting also to see there is a Rendall parish on Mainland, adjacent to Evie parish. In a book I found in the State Library of South Australia in Adelaide, Records of the Earldom of Orkney (1914) there is a pedigree for Rendall of Rendall going back to the 13th century. Now wouldn’t that be a nice thing to claim (for my wife's family, of course!)

I do hope there might be a Rendall or a descendant in Orkney who recognises my wife's family as long lost relatives, and that we could meet, come May or June 2014!

If this article rings any bells with you Neil would be delighted to hear from you. Contact him at: blantyre@aapt.net.au

Cycling to School
Continued from Page 16

At home on the farm, a younger sister and I became egg-washers every evening. Scores of eggs collected from several hundred laying hens had to be washed, dried and packed seven days a week, an ideal job for schoolgirls before their lessons since they were deemed to have done no real work through the day. Many years later my sister and I were voicing our extreme dislike of egg-washing to our Mother who answered with some spirit, “eggs educated the two of you”. That was the bottom line and we never complained again, at least not in her lifetime.

While the domestic front became all change, an unexpected one also happened on the academic front. To complete the group of subjects for sitting the Highers examination in 5th year, I had to choose an additional new subject. With a natural leaning towards languages, I chose German. But during a 10 minute interview with the headmaster it was immediately and painfully clear I could not have it; discussion was pointless because there was simply no one to teach it due to wartime shortages of Staff. The only alternative was Domestic Science.

That brief interview was to channel me into studying Home Economics. It was pleasantly easy, a wonderful training for life generally and one which led ultimately to a lectureship at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. A second-choice subject at the time, I enjoyed a fully satisfying career in it; however, I have always secretly retained a love of language and use of words, first discovered and developed during those wartime years when five of us cycled to the Toon’s school.
In 1991 Victor E Jaynes of New Zealand produced a carefully researched history of a long established Orkney family – the Flett family. It traced the descendants of one David Flett and Ann Irvine who were married in Stromness in 1764.

His preface reads: - In the southwest corner of the Orkney parish of Stromness lays the small, rural district of Outertown. Almost certainly I would have remained in ignorance of its existence had I not discovered it is the ancestral home of Canadian Fletts of which my mother is one. Then came a copy of a 1874 letter in which mention is made of my mother’s great uncles farming in Australia. When contact was made with the Australian branch of the family this in turn produced evidence of cousins who had crossed the Tasman Sea more than a century ago to settle in New Zealand. A descendant of one of those told me of an uncle who had corresponded with a Flett relative somewhere in South Africa. Step by step it had become evident this was a family that had spread themselves widely around the globe in the 19th century. But in attempting to trace present day descendants I found no overall view existed of the family’s numerous branches or list their whereabouts. I chose to regard this as a challenge and Out of Outertown: A Flett Family Dispersed is the response.’’Forebears of the Fletts of Orkney were Norseman but whether from Norway or Denmark it is not possible to say. While most of the Viking expeditions that colonised Orkney and Shetland were mounted from the west coast of Norway, it is not uncommon for the Danes to be included in the Norwegian enterprise and vice versa. During the period of the Norse expansion the inhabitants of these two countries shared a common religion and language and their ruling families were closely related.

The distinction of being the first Fletts in recorded history probably belongs to two Danes, Harold Flett and his son Swend’ as recorded by Roland William Saint-Clare in his Saint-Clairs of the Isles.

Settlers from Norway probably began arriving in Orkney in the 8th century but the main movement did not take place until the next century’.

In the southwest corner of Mainland [Pomona], Orkney’s largest Island is the Parish of Stromness. The tunship of Stromness is divided in to the districts of Innertun and Uttertun, known more recently as Innertown and Outertown. Flett’s Bigging [old Norse for dwelling house], the home of our ancestors, was in Outertown. It was to Stromness and to Flett’s Bigging, (I should add is still listed on the local survey map), that Australian descendants of the family travelled in 2007. The small party included my wife Jennifer [nee Flett] and her maiden sister, Ruth Flett and me, all of biblical age of three score years and ten, with the girls having been born and raised in the Wimmera farming district of Donald, Victoria, or more specifically, the Laen district. The family also includes a younger brother, Harold Hugh Flett, still farming part of the original cereal growing property at Laen, 15km from Donald.

Victor Jaynes is now deceased as is possibly his widow but, before her death we obtained permission from her to reprint the family history ‘Out of Outertown – A Flett Family Dispersed’. Should anyone wish to have more information on the re-publication of ‘Out of Outertown – A Flett Family Dispersed’ - or indeed history of the dispersed Flett family, the Australian contacts are:-

Mrs Jennifer Mitchell, 8/23 Queens Rd, MEBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, 3004, 3 9863 5128 jamitchell6@bigpond.com
Ms M. Ruth Flett, 13/17 Kingsley Cres, MONT ALBERT, AUSTRALIA, 3127 3 9890 6794
Mr Harold Flett, 12 Sheep Hills Rd, DONALD VIC AUSTRALIA, 3480 hajflett@bigpond.com

Orcadians are more familiar with these areas as Innertown and Ootertown but for the purposes of this article I have kept the more formal spelling used by Victor Jaynes in his publication.
Message 256 of 485  Subject: David Franklin  
By: Christine Horne (#382)  Date: 03/04/11 17:22:50

Where could I find details of a court case from 1861? I have no idea if the case was held in Orkney, or where to start looking.

David Franklin was committed for trial on a charge of bigamy in the week of the 23 March 1861 (report carried in The Orcadian). In the 1861 Census he appears as a Prisoner in the Broad Street Prison, Kirkwall. His 1st wife (living in Caithness) was still alive when he married Jane Cumming (South Ronaldsay) on 14 December 1860.

She married in February 1871 to John Thomson (again South Ronaldsay) and is listed as being a widow, although she married under her maiden name of Cumming.

I would like to know when the trial happened, what evidence was presented and what happened to David Franklin.

Also what would have happened in respect of Jane's "marital" status (in the 1861 Census for South Ronaldsay, she is listed as Jane Franklin and married - technically at that point she was).

Reply to christinehorne@aol.co.uk

Message 282 of 485  Subject: William Leask and Helen Harold  
By: Margaret Gentil (#1578)  Date: 14/02/12 22:13:30

Trying to find any information on William LEASK and Helen HAROLD/HARALD, who had a daughter Elizabeth LEASK, born Rousay, abt 1805. She married John DINNERSON and died in New Zealand in 1897. They were merchants/drapers in Kirkwall before emigrating to NZ in 1860 with their family. William LEASK was a teacher according to Elizabeth's death certificate. According to family stories there may be a Shetland connection. A son, Robert was also born to this couple in 1794 in Evie and Rendall. I have not been able to find this William amongst the Rousay LEASKS.

Any help would be much appreciated.
Many thanks, Margaret

Reply to mmgentil@slingshot.co.nz

Message 321 of 485  Subject: William Leask and Helen Harold  
By: Margaret Gentil (#1578)  Date: 14/02/12 22:13:30

Trying to find any information on William LEASK and Helen HAROLD/HARALD, who had a daughter Elizabeth LEASK, born Rousay, abt 1805. She married John DINNERSON and died in New Zealand in 1897. They were merchants/drapers in Kirkwall before emigrating to NZ in 1860 with their family. William LEASK was a teacher according to Elizabeth’s death certificate. According to family stories there may be a Shetland connection. A son, Robert was also born to this couple in 1794 in Evie and Rendall. I have not been able to find this William amongst the Rousay LEASKS.

Any help would be much appreciated.
Many thanks, Margaret

Reply to mmgentil@slingshot.co.nz

Message 420 of 485  Subject: William Annal  
By: Linda Doig (#2954)  Date: 16/11/12 13:01:59

I am a descendent of William Annal (1801-1853) he married Margaret Annal in 1841. In the 1841 census William is listed as staying with his brother Robert at Mosesater with his 3 year old son who was born at Hudson Bay. They went on to have 5 children (twins Elizabeth & Robert 1841, James 1843, Isabella 1844, and John 1846). When Margaret died 1846/47 he married Helen Garrioch Taylor and had another 3 children Margaret 1850, Jessie 1852 and Robert 1853. I know what happened to Helen’s family but wondered if anyone knows what happened to Margaret’s family. Helen brought her family to Edinburgh between 1881 and 1891. The last time all the family were listed as living together was 1851 and the address was Sandyhill.

Reply to linda.doig@hotmail.co.uk

Message 8 of 486  Subject: NICHOLSON  
By: Bob Ewen (#1258)  Date: 29/06/10 20:36:41

Am trying to trace what happened to JOHN WILLIAM NICHOLSON - born 1874 at Sandwick, (Parents Andrew Nicholson and Ann Rose Spence). He married Mary Harvey and had two sons, Thomas Andrew and John George. Mary died in 1901 after which he left Orkney to go to Canada and there is no trace of him there although he definitely arrived - he left his two sons with their paternal grandparents on Orkney but only ever had 1 contact with them after arriving in Canada. Any help appreciated.

Reply to superpars@btinternet.com

Check out all the entries on the message board at www.orkneyfhs.co.uk. You may find something that interests you or have the answer to a fellow member's problem.
Clearing out a cupboard recently, I came across a copy of the baptismal records from 1735-1820 of Lady Kirk, Sanday. These had been given to me by a Sanday friend more than thirty years ago, and had been typed, early last century I suspect, by an R. Skea. R. Skea comments that they were “all written in copperplate longhand with a quill pen . . . . . . the man’s name and the wife’s maiden name are always given. It also states they are married persons – and if not, it is coined in no uncertain terms. I first searched the records forty years ago, but in those days one was not allowed to copy.” Presumably copying was not permitted then, to spare the blushes of faithful kirk goers who might discover to their horror that gran-ny had had a chequered love life!

The first thing that struck me reading through these records was how little the names had changed in a couple of centuries or more. William Skea, Stephen Muir, John Sinclair, John Thomson, John Moodie, Jean Sclater, Margaret Peace, Mary Muir and Barbara Drever are but a small sample of names that we also knew from our time in Sanday in the seventies and early eighties. No doubt things will be very different in the future with present day bairns being christened Aaron, Aiden, Leah, Shannon, India etc. Will this make family history research easier perhaps?

The next thing I noticed on going through the names was the spelling, and how it was occasionally phonetic. Interestingly again, some names, particularly surnames, were being pronounced in exactly the same way during our years in Sanday. Thus we see Jannet Waals, Margaret Draver, John Turie, Barbara Derness, Catherine Prett and John Lerman. I wonder if some of these old (and no doubt original) pronunciations are now also on their way out.

While the ordinary Sanday folk had simple entries such as “1757 Magnus Muir and Barbara Drever – Robert”, those of higher social standing were more elaborate “1738 Thomas Traill and his spouse Isabella Grant – Isabella” “1753 John Traill, Esq. of Elness and his spouse Lady Isabella Traill had a daughter born this day – Elizabeth” “1780 Mr Andrew Strang tacksman of Lop-ness and spouse . . . . . . Ross – William” “1793 Rev Walter Traill and spouse Margaret McBeath – Thomas”.

Not all those of high pedigree were, however, whiter than white. Andrew Strang whose wife had a son in 1780 features in a 1777 entry “Jean Cock had a child in fornication to Mr Andrew Strang – George”. In 1804 George, now a respectable adult, appears again “George Strang and Jannet Sinclair – Grace”. 1807 sees the intimation “Jannet Muir an unmarried woman brought forth a child, given for the Father Mr Wm Watt jun, sometime merchant in Kirkwall named John William Watt”.

In 1741 there seemed to be an island Lothario, judging by the following entry “Robert Simpson and Gails Groat (born in fornication). Said Robert Simpson had another child by fornication by Bess Slatter”. One wonders what the sad story was in the following from 1751. “Thomas Tours who was lost (lost?) away with a boatful of horses in Oct last and it was reported to Jannet Scott who brought forth a child this day which was baptized Christian”. Another woman without a man appears in “1814 Mary a child of Margaret Draver, alleged father Thomas Scott, Kirkwall”.

Sad stories, however, also involved the fathers. “1742 William Tulloch had a child baptized” and in 1746 “Rob-ert Hay had a child baptized this day. Magnus Tulloch had a child baptized this day”. One presumes their wives must have died in childbirth.

The saddest and most cruel entry to my mind was in 1772 when the baby born to John Wilson, a married man, and Barbara Sandeson, an unmarried woman, was referred to as an “adulterous child”. Poor bairn.

A recent talk given to the family history society here in Pitlochry was entitled ‘Dare to climb your family tree’. The kirk session in Lady Parish obviously did not want R Skea doing exactly that when he had first tried, forty years prior to finally getting permission. With terms like adulterous child, no wonder they didn’t want him taking notes!

If anyone thinks they may have forebears in these baptismal records, I will be delighted to check for them.

Anne Cormack. Email: alastair.c123@btinternet.com
Little did Dai Phillips think when he wrote a letter in 1916 to a family member, John Phillips in Carmarthenshire, that it would be delivered almost a century later to Dai’s granddaughter, Mary Hodge in Chester.

Dai’s letter, addressed, sealed and bearing a King George V penny stamp, but never posted, had been found in 1980 behind a fireplace in Bridge Street, Kirkwall but it was not until 2013 that it was handed into the Orkney Library Archive in the hope that they could identify the man or his family.

There was not much to go on as Dai had simply signed the letter Your Bluejacket Boy. Nevertheless Orkney Library Archive decided to launch an appeal on their blog and Lucy Gibbon, Assistant Archivist, explained how their blog helped solve the mystery.

“We posted it last year and asked our followers to help us find out the author’s real name and if he had any descendants. We meantime also worked with the local paper in Llanelli, The Llanelli Star and it was also heard on Radio Orkney and appeared in the Dyfed Family History Society Newsletter.

We wanted to show the process of researching an enquiry to the public, and of course wanted to see if we could get this letter to his family.

It certainly captured the imagination of our blog followers and we were given several leads.

Things really started to roll when one of our blog followers — known as Janealogy on the blog — spotted a marriage between David Phillips and Catherine Johnston, quite by chance on a Johnston family website originating in Canada.

Janealogy contacted the website author and told him to look at our Bluejacket Boy’s post.

The man from Canada, Bruce, looked at our post at the beginning of February and immediately alerted a distant family member in Wales, Mary Hodge and told her to get in touch with the Orkney Library Archive as he had seen a post on their blog and was sure that it was her grandfather.

Mary checked out the blog and knew from the address on the envelope that the letter that it must be from her grandfather.

“It was a mixture of high emotion, shock and disbelief” Mary said. “ during the First World War David Dai Phillips was stationed in Orkney, serving on HMS Cyclops, a depot and repair ship based at Scapa Flow. On April 11, 1919 he had married an Orkney girl, my wonderful grandmother, Catherine Isabella Coghill Johnston—Bella—at the Congregational Manse in Kirkwall Orkney. Catherine’s family lived in Bridge Street, which no doubt explains the origin of the letter.

The following year they moved to 61 Swansea Road Llanelli and started a family. They had two children,” Mary continued, “My mother Minnie and my Aunt Jean.

“David and Bella lived with us through my formative years so they were my grand parents in every sense. They were an inspiring and loving couple and I still miss them terribly. I am glad to have this opportunity of recording my everlasting thanks to the lady who handed the letter into the Orkney Library Archive and to all the researchers and those who posted comments that helped discover the identity of the Bluejacket Boy—my grandfather David John Phillips.

Thank you everybody from my heart”.

Mary is planning to visit Orkney in the near future so that she can pick up the letter from her grandfather in person; after all it is now too precious to put in the post.

John Sinclair, Member No 588
THE ORKNEY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Orkney Family History Society was formed in 1997 and is run by a committee of volunteers. It is similar to societies operating worldwide where members share a mutual interest in family history and help each other with research and, from time to time, assist in special projects concerning the countless records and subjects available to us all in finding our roots.

The main objectives are:
1. To establish a local organisation for the study, collection, analysis and sharing of information about individuals and families in Orkney.
2. To establish and maintain links with other family history groups and genealogical societies throughout the UK and overseas.
3. To establish and maintain a library and other reference facilities as an information resource for members and approved subscribers.
4. To promote study projects and special interest groups to pursue approved assignments.

We are located on the upper floor of the Kirkwall Library next to the archives department and are open Mon–Fri 2pm–4.30pm and Sat 11am–4.30pm.

Our own library, though small at the moment, holds a variety of information including:
- The IGI for Orkney on microfiche.
- The Old Parish Records on microfilm.
- The Census Returns on microfilm transcribed on to a computer database.
- Family Trees.
- Emigration and Debtors lists.
- Letters, Articles and stories concerning Orkney and its people.
- Hudson’s Bay Company information.
- Graveyard Surveys (long term project).

This material is available to members for ‘in house’ research by arrangement.

Locally we have a Members’ Evening, most months, with a guest speaker.

We produce a booklet of members and interests to allow members with similar interests to correspond with each other if they wish.

We also produce a newsletter 4 times a year and are always looking for articles and photographs of interest. A stamped addressed envelope should be included if these are to be returned. Back copies of the magazine can be purchased at £1 per copy.

We can usually undertake research for members who live outwith Orkney but this is dependent on the willingness of our island members giving up their spare time to help. Any costs incurred, such as fees for certificates, will require to be reimbursed by the member.

NEW MEMBERS
Membership of the Society is through subscription and runs for a period of 12 months from date of application.

Our magazine, ‘Sib Folk News’ is available to members every 3 months unless they have agreed to ‘opt out’ (see new rate structure) as all issues are now available online. Our ‘Members’ Directory’ can also be found online at www.orkneyfhs.co.uk following links members page/Members’ Directory. This lists members’ contact details and their research interests.

Members will receive a password to access the members’ pages on the website, details of which are shown on the Home Page.

A great deal of research can be achieved through these resources at www.orkneyfhs.co.uk.

NEW RATES from 1st SEPTEMBER 2013

1. All UK Membership and overseas members opting out of receiving a printed copy of Sib Folk News (available on our website) £10.00
2. OVERSEAS - Surface Mail £15.00
3. OVERSEAS - Air Mail £18.00

If you pay by standing order, the amount should be amended to £10 if due on or after Sept 1st 2013.

DOWNLOAD THESE and SEND WITH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
Visit www.orkneyfhs.co.uk/docs/mempack.pdf where you will find a New Membership Application form and a blank Family Tree. Please complete these, print and send with the appropriate subscription to The Treasurer at the address below.

EXISTING MEMBERS CAN RENEW ONLINE
Existing members wanting to renew their subscription can now do so online. Just Log In and use the link from My Details on the Member’s Page. You can, of course, still send your subscription to the Treasurer at OFHS.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE
Overseas members, paying in their own currency, should check the exchange rate to ensure the correct amount is forwarded. Our bank will accept overseas cheques without charging commission. We regret that foreign Postal Orders are not acceptable in the UK.

Members residing in the UK may pay their subscriptions by Bankers Order and if they wish can have their subscriptions treated as Gift Aid donations. Forms are available on request.

Cheques should be made payable to:- ORKNEY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY and forwarded to The Treasurer ORKNEY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY Orkney Library & Archive 44 Junction Rd. Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1AG Scotland.

General enquiries should be addressed to the office in writing or to Treasurer George Gray (e-mail: george.gray147@tinternet.com) General Secy. Jackie Harrison (e-mail: jackie1963@tiscali.co.uk) Research Secy. Enquiries should be sent to George Gray until a new research secretary is appointed

Editor. John Sinclair (e-mail: johnsin@gotadsl.co.uk) Orkney Family History Society website— www.orkneyfhs.co.uk

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