



SIB FOLK NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORKNEY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

No 79 September 2016



DID CAPTAIN JAMES RENTON WATERS CARRY A GRISLY CARGO?

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I'VE BEEN STAVING OFF ASKING AS I AM PROBABLY SCRAPING THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL BUT IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY ORKNEY ALLANS WOULD YOU PLEASE BLING IT TO ME



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Did your folks farm Gyrehouse?



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'Dead' Kaiser Shocks young Jackie Brown



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Mandy zaps midge but genealogy bug strikes back

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Schooldays at Stymilders

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Poppies Weep for Private Andrew Nicholson

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If my ancestors were landed-gentry why can I only find an old ploughing medal?



When community Service was not an option

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for photos and memories of a happy childhood at the Toc-H

Come and enjoy the Kirkwall shopping tour



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Attention SANDAY SINNERS Let the new FREE KIRK show you the way

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FAMILY HISTORY
NEWSLETTER No 79
SEPTEMBER 2016**

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From the Chair

Welcome to the September issue of the Sib Folk News at the end of a summer of lovely weather and a very busy time in the office. In Orkney as a whole, we must have had record numbers of tourists this year with over 100 cruise ships including Orkney in their itinerary plus all the holidaymakers who visited our islands.

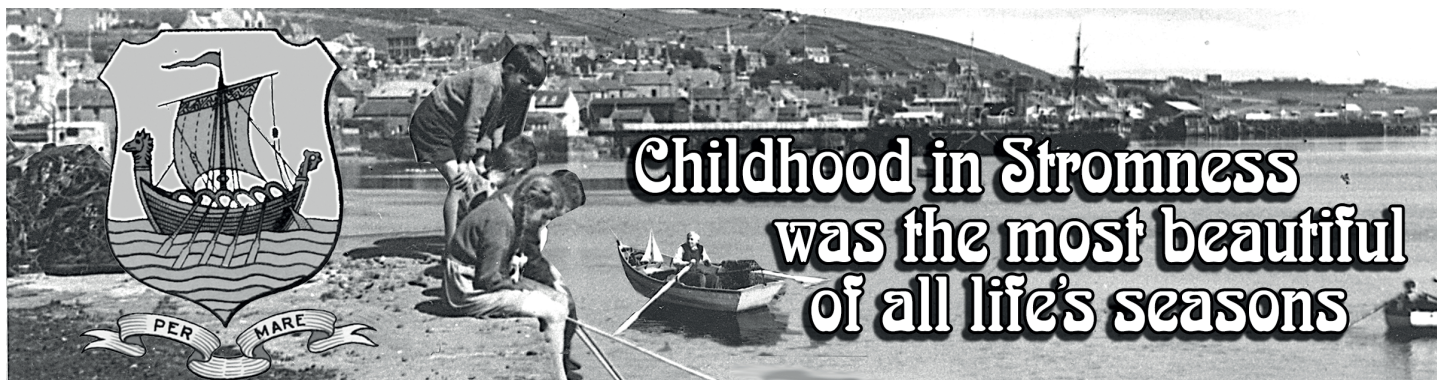
The Family History Society had a table in the exhibition hall at the Vintage Rally in August and it was good to see and have a chat with our members and welcome some new ones as well. Remember, we look forward to seeing you in the office if you get stuck with your research or if you just want to say 'hello'.

The website is being updated with more interesting and helpful resources so don't forget to check out www.orkneyfhs.co.uk and you will be amazed at the amount of information freely available to our members. If you have a query, post on the message board as this frequently produces results. Family photos can be uploaded to the site as well and these are always of interest to your fellow members.

As we draw towards the end of Autumn we look forward to our annual dinner and winter program. This got off to a good start at our September meeting in the St Magnus Centre where our guest speaker, Tom Muir, enlightened us about 'Old Orkney Customs: Births, Marriages and Deaths'.

Finally, our Editor, John Sinclair has asked me to mention that he has changed his internet provider and now has a new email address. Will you be one of the first to email him with an article for our Sib Folk News at john.sinclair@burnside.myzen.co.uk and help him fill the December issue?

Anne Rendall



Childhood in Stromness was the most beautiful of all life's seasons

Part 4 of the Jackie Brown Story

In my boyhood the small town of Stromness with its 2000 or so people was a close knit society. A daily bus went from Stromness to Kirkwall, 15 miles away. There were only three cars which could be hired for a special journey. This resulted in a static population where everyone knew each other and thus it had been for generations. It was not, however, an inward looking society. There had been the heady days of the herring fishing when the harbour was crammed with sail boats for a couple of months and the town echoed with the laughter of the fisher girls. Stromness was the headquarters of the Hudson Bay Company in Orkney, and here men were recruited from all over the islands for a five year stint in the "Nor West". There were also the weekly sailings of the "North Boats" to Aberdeen and Leith and the daily sailing of the mail boat to Scrabster in Caithness.

The town's motto *Per Mare* was an appropriate one. For us youngsters the harbour was our pleasure area - a paradise in the summer months, sailing and rowing, catching fish in the strong currents of Hoy Sound, learning to swim. It was a grand place in which to grow up.

It was also a place which produced a plethora of characters. One of those was "Soldier John" - **John Johnston**, the town crier and verger in the Episcopalian Church of Scotland, a small chapel up the Kirk Road. He had been the town crier before "The Puffer" and had been a foot soldier with General Gordon in India, about which he loved to expound. He was frequently heard to expound in "Billjek's" saddlery shop and his stories about India were treated with suspicion - and sometimes derision. He had a deep sonorous voice, admirable for a town crier; also admirable for his stories. On one occasion when he concluded with "I have stood where thousands fell," a wit, **Sam Stockan**, quickly said, "Thousands of lice, Jack."



"Soldier John"

On one occasion in **Peter Esson's** tailor shop it was suggested that Soldier John should be asked to deliver a talk on India in the Temperance Hall - a silver collection to be charged. This was thought would attract a large audience. The hall was filled to capacity: this should be a memorable occasion. In his rich and loud voice Soldier John commenced "In India some worship the sun, some worship the moon and some worship the Brahmputra hen. Many's a time I've seen a woman throw her child into the jaws of the alligator." Loud cheers came from the audience and that was just the beginning. Other characters roamed the street and piers of Stromness. **Geordie Chalmers** thought he was a ship. Dressed in a reefer jacket with brass buttons and a cheesecutter cap he walked along muttering 'starboard' or 'port' or, 'a splash astern'. When asked why he had walked the ten miles to Dounby on a windy day, his answer was 'to get a back wind home.'

Then there was **James Miller** who would walk slowly down the pier clutching at the chain of his pocketwatch and muttering "crunch a halibut". So naturally he was nicknamed 'Cruncha Halibut'. Both were quite innocuous and just part of the scene.

Another well known character was **Kitty Bell**, known more frequently as Titty Bell. She was also quite harmless as she went swinging along the street with a large washing basket tucked into her haunch. She spoke to no one but would sing a ditty and perform a pirouette as she gaily went on her way.

My recollections of the Great War were quite vague. My older brother, Hughie, two years my senior, would talk about German spies. This must have been discussed by his peers at school and to a young four year old it was quite frightening. When the war finished he dragged me along to see the Kaiser who was lying in state in Wisheart's garage. The effigy that confronted us was so real to me that I turned tail and ran as fast as my legs ▶



Geordie Chalmers

◀ would carry me to the safety of home. I refused to go to see him burned.



Masons Arms Hotel

Immediately to the north of our house stood the Masons Arms Hotel. It had its own pier on which their garage was situated with its two gleaming cars. I would spend a lot of my time there before I attended school. The chauffeur, **Charlie Lennie**, seemed to enjoy my company and would tease me to get my reactions. Apparently I was quite a talkative child and when Charlie teased me by saying I would be a minister when I grew up, my reply was that I would never be

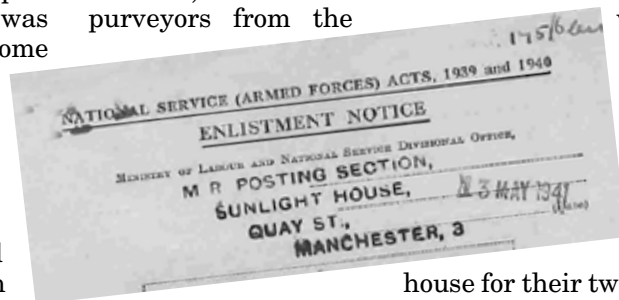
a minister because I would curse and swear. Charlie at that time was courting **Bessie Flett** who used to help at our home as a young girl whenever required. That was how the story of my righteous indignation reached home - I would never be a minister.

Before I was born my mother had as lodgers two schoolgirls from the country who attended school for their secondary education: **Maggie Wilson** from Hoy and **Jeannie Spence** from Queena in Birsay. As transport was so impossible at that time, pupils who wished to go onto further education had to find "digs". This developed into a lasting friendship with the Spences of

Queena and once a year we would visit as a family, firstly with horses and carriage, then driven by Charlie - the gleaming Daimler with its brass headlights. I remember with delight sitting beside my father and the driver of the carriage with his whip as we trundled along the rough roads and the sixteen miles to Queena. On one occasion, unknown to us, the fat dog Tibby belonging to the Robertsons, followed us all the way. He got a lift back. When I entered the Union Bank on 4th August 1931, I had to relinquish my milk round with **Tommy Firth** of Castle Farm with whom I had worked for five years earning what was then a princely seven shillings and sixpence a week. Of this sum I handed over



five shillings to my mother and kept the remainder for pocket money. In terms of the other school children I was well off by comparison. The job was a sinecure and one that I dearly loved. In summer, the milk round was twice daily; in winter once daily. There was no electricity and no refrigerators but in winter none were required as the milk would keep quite well. The tenant farmer of Castle Farm, Tommy Firth, would set off with his horse and chariot down Oglaby and I would meet him at the top of Helliehole Road before proceeding along the Back Road and turning into the town. The vehicle was indeed a chariot, not unlike the Roman chariots of Ben Hur, quite low at the back and sloping upwards. A big churn with a tap held the milk securely and the milk was poured into zinc cans with lids which were then poured into the waiting receptacles at the house doors. Nancy the pony knew exactly where to stop along the way and where to set off at a trot, when Tommy and I would leap on the back making good time, for I had to be in school at 9am. During summer holidays I would spend quite a lot of time at Castle Farm, especially when the turnips had to be singled or the haystack built. At those times the neighbouring farmers would be there to help and there was friendly banter and always special meals washed down with home-brewed ale. It was the beginning of my love of the countryside. In the farming economy the sale of milk was a welcome addition, so much so that there were at least a dozen purveyors from the



various farms. Even the Couper girls from Citadel would trek down the half mile to a room in

a brother's house for their twenty or so customers at the South End. The Brown boys held the milk rounds for twelve years. I followed Hughie when he went to work at Nicolson's bakery and Norris followed me until he went to Aberdeen University - almost a dynasty! And George followed on from Norris for a few years. My transfer to the bank in Kirkwall lasted from 1935 until I was called up for war service in June 1941. In contrast to Stromness, Kirkwall was a much busier town, with five banks and bigger staffs. The staffs of the various banks combined in sporting activities - football, golf and swimming. Starting work at 10 am and closing the doors at 3 pm gave us ample time to indulge in these activities. I even won my first and only football medal as a member of the bankers' team when we won the Trades Cup and my handicap at golf went down to 10. In the summer a bunch of us would go to Scapa Beach about a mile away for a swim before tea. Banking was not then a very stressful occupation. Farmers were still dealing mostly in cash and it was not until they started to receive government subsidies after the war that a Current Account was necessary. During most of my stay in Kirkwall, I lived with four other lads in a large and ancient house, with gargoyles, over 400 years old and reputed to be the oldest house where people still lived. Sixty years on it is still occupied and has been renovated. It stands in a delightful small ▶

Continued from previous page

◀ Square, Firth's Square, at the top end of Victoria Street. The landlady was a spinster, **Ruby Moar**, known affectionately as Rube. She was easy going, had a gurgling laugh and a cigarette invariably hung from her lips and never moved from her mouth as she worked away. I often wondered how she could do this without coughing and spluttering. For



18 shillings a week, we had breakfast and dinner, and for tea at 5 o'clock, we had our own food with Rube provid-

ing the tea. During this time I was able to buy my well loved motor bike - an Isle of Man 500cc Rudge. In the square up the close from the house I kept my bike in a stone built aperture which in the old days housed a carriage. In bad weather, when the bike was splattered with mud, Rube would allow me to clean it in her large kitchen if I would spread old newspapers on the lino - noth-

ing bothered Rube!. I had bought the Rudge for £25 from **Freddie Kirkness** (later drowned with all the crew in the Peterhead Lifeboat Disaster) while on holiday with the Kirkness family at Quooyostray, Rousay. When I returned from Rousay to Kirkwall on 1st August 1937, the date that driving tests commenced, I was the first in Orkney to apply. (My other first in Orkney was my application for a TV licence). The other reason for the purchase was probably the most important, for I was courting a lass in Harray, 13 miles away - **Maria Sinclair Flett**, who I was later to marry - and 13 miles on a push bike in windy and wet weather was something of a chore, to put it mildly. It was a proud moment when I arrived at Kingshouse and Maria elected to come on the pillion for a drive around the countryside. I was still not quite "aufait" with the gears. The Rudge had upswept double exhaust pipes which would become quite hot in low gear. Maria's thighs were in contact slightly with the exhausts so when I went into first gear up the Kingshouse brae, when second gear would have been sufficient, the inevitable happened. She never told me until much later that she had burned both thighs. She loved pillion riding with her close friend **Lillian Jolly** and decided not to complain. ■



Photograph identified

----In your December 2015 issue page 9 you have a photo sent in by Elizabeth Munro # 3358 Caithness. She wonders if anyone recognizes the three people who she believes are connected with her Tillydelph Lairds from Burray. Her Grandmother Betsy Laird was born at Tillydelph and married George Rosie.

This same photo is in Orkney Image Library #28055. Taken around 1930. Also 28054 is of the same family, taken around 1912. Nick G Carter submitted the photo and said the elderly man is John Manson. The woman his unmarried daughter May. The young man his grandson Robert Steven Barclay. They are from Stromness. According to this family's tree on Ancestry.com John was born in Aberdeenshire, his wife May Flett and children in Orkney.

Hope this helps

Anne Miller, USA. Member No 2149

we've got email



Dear John Sinclair

I read with interest Norman J Logie's article about Robert Marwick Mainland in the June Issue. I was a pupil at George Heriot's School in Edinburgh from 1941 - 1955. During my time at School the names of the 222 former pupils who died during the Second World War were added to the War Memorial already existing to those who died in The Great War.

In the Roll of Honour published at that time the same photograph of Robert M Mainland appears as in Sib Folk News with the following citation:-

"Sergeant-Pilot, R.A.F. born 1917. Son of Mr and Mrs Mainland of Corsley, Warminster, Wiltshire, and formerly of Essaquay, Rousay, Orkney. Joined R.A.F. on leaving School; served in Egypt; selected for training as pilot; promoted Sergeant-Pilot later. Killed on active service in the early days of the war."

If it is of interest to you I could send a photograph of the War Memorial and a close up of the name Robert M Mainland.

Yours sincerely

Kenneth Scotland, Member No 932

I was also interested in the article about Stymilders. The small inset photograph heading the page shows Quarry House which was the home of my Bews ancestors for the second half of the 19th Century.



Evidently my ancestor was a very important person. What went wrong?

By Peter Bews. Member 2222

Whenever I open my SIB Folk News I'm always rather in awe of the Orcadian genes - the reports of family history are full of derring-do, adventures, notability or notoriety, and achievements worldwide, none of which I have been able to trace in my Orcadian forbears. It is even more frustrating as I learned in an article in *Orcadiana* by **George Lamb** (Bellavista Publications 2004) that my ancestor, **Bube Skinner**, was a "very important man", and his descendants were, in the sixteenth century, "apparently one of Orkney's great landed families".

This being so, whatever happened to us then?

Judging by the paucity, not to say absence, of articles in the Sib Folk News on the descendants of Bube Skinner, who now go by the name of Bews, all I can assume is that for the past five hundred years they have simply looked after their crofts and families and attempted to make ends meet, largely in the vicinity of Kirkwall, or else moved away and either lost touch with their roots, or their offspring and are not interested in their ancestry. All I can find of note in my personal family history, which I have as yet only been able to trace back to about 1750, is the winning of a ploughing medal by my great grandfather in Kirkwall in 1876 (now on view in Kirkwall museum), which for some reason was immediately followed by his emigration to England at the age of 21. (More of that later).

As far as I can gather (from the research of others) I am a descendant of **Peter Bews** and **Ann Laughton** (no dates*) who lived in Holm (where there?*) in the mid-18th century. We have details of their four offspring (one of whom apparently died aged three, but whose next-born brother was given the same Christian name, Peter). We have, however, no details of their forbears.*

The third of their four sons, William b.1777, seems to have had a skeleton in the cupboard: Was his wife, **Christiana Chapland**/ Christian Cheapland/ Christina Chapplin b.25.3.1786 the mother of his first daughter, **Euphemia**/Euphan, born in 1803? It seems unlikely, given that William and Christian only married on 17.8.1815, and all their other offspring were born in marriage. **Euphemia John Johnston** is approximately ten years older than the youngest of the other children (of whom there were seven), was apparently born in Kirkwall and was recorded in the 1841 census as being "fatuous" and in 1851 as a pauper and insane. The question, then, is: was William married before, or who was Euphemia's mother?*

My branch of the family was not adventurous, geographically at least, and were concentrated in the parish of St. Andrew's round the crofts Paddy Hall (re-named Newark after minor improvements by my gt.gt. grandfather), Lighthouse, Swarta Breck, (Northhouse), all on the Tankerness estate. Fortunately all these houses still stand. At Graemeshall in Holm, **Robert Bews**, (my gt.gt. grandfather) serving as a ploughman, met **Matilda Hourie** from Deerness, a cook, married her and subsequently moved to the "family home" at Newark.

My gt. grandfather departed from Newark in 1876 (after a family bust-up). He appears incidentally to have been fairly hot-headed in his early years after leaving Orkney too. He left his 19 year old brother Robert and Aunt Barbara to look after the croft and was never to mention Orkney again to his subsequent family. Robert married the girl next door, **Mary Spence**, a dressmaker, from Northhouse and they looked after the croft for a while, were still there in 1891, but soon afterwards moved to Edinburgh, where Robert died in 1901 and was brought back to Orkney by Mary to be buried in the graveyard of the Hall of Tankerness. They had no progeny, so this line of the family is maintained by my gt. grandfather, who disappeared in England for a few years between 1876 and about 1880, when he turned up in the Midlands to run the farm (what else?) of Shustoke, the first industrial school in the UK and run by Birmingham Borough Council, where "those young offenders not criminal, but likely to fall into crime" were held under a very harsh, semi-military regime. He wasn't there long however, as he fell in love with Lucy, the daughter of the headmaster, one **C.J.Vinall**; much to the latter's horror the feeling was reciprocal (They married in 1882 and ten months later their first daughter, **Henrietta Olive Mary**, was born two months premature in 1883.) Not being approved of as an Orkney crofter by his parents-in-law, James gave up his post at Shustoke and once again tried his luck at farming in Sussex. Family history has it that the south coast didn't suit Lucy, disaster struck, and with the price of cereals slumping and an extensive outbreak of foot and mouth, now bankrupt, he left real farming and found a position managing a sewage farm in Walsall, earning enough to support his eight children. His temper once again seems to have got the better of him in this post, he resigned after a disagreement with his employers and was for the rest of his life a credit draper in Walsall. A fit one, though. Not liking to spend nights away from home, whenever the family went to Wales ▶

for the summer holidays, he would cycle there on his sit-up-and-beg, spend the afternoon with the family and then cycle back to Walsall. All in a day.

Of the seven children who survived childhood, six were girls and one, my grandfather, Charles James Vinall Bews, born in May 1885 was the only boy, but one who attained some distinction by becoming the headmaster of the first Day Continuation School in the country, founded by Cadbury's, where young workers from the factory were given day release to further their education, rather than having to extend their knowledge through evening classes, which had been in existence for some time. On his retirement Cadbury presented him with a portrait of himself by Sir Oliphant Hutchinson, who also painted the Queen. His daughter, Helen, was, in the 1960's, the first of the family to re-visit Orkney since James left in 1876, but since then, a nameless gt. grandson of James has moved back to Orkney, albeit not Newark, but Westray.

*= does anyone have any answers

2. General questions regarding emigration from Orkney.

I would be very interested to read an overview of the negative factors which forced many crofters in the nineteenth century to emigrate. Particularly external factors, such as cheaper imports to the UK from elsewhere, or poor harvests, rental increases etc.

I would also be interested to learn of the positive factors which encouraged emigration, presumably mainly based on, or depending on, a sense of adventure.

3. Orkney Customs.

Copied by my gt aunt, Margaret Roberts (nee Bews) 1886-1979, from a Friendship book of Francis Gay. Year not known. Tuesday May 18th.

"Just a glass of cool, clear spring water, but believe me, it can be the finest gift. A young man came to Balfour Hospital, Kirkwall, with a parcel for his father, who is a patient there. It contained several bottles of drinking water.

I'm sure you've never heard before of such a gift for a hospital patient. Nor Had I. But this funny man knew that to a sick inslander there is nothing more welcome than a drink of sparkling water that comes from the spring at his own back door. The hospital water is every bit as pure but in spite of this, it's become a lively tradition in Orkney to carry spring water to relatives in hospital.

A former patient, Jimmy Bews, has even made it a self-imposed task every day to draw water from the wells and take it to the patients.

A humble task.....yet surely it invokes the blessing promised to those who give a cup of water in His house."

Questions:

1. Does this custom still exist or when was it last heard of?
2. Does anyone know which Jimmy Bews is referred to here?

Emails to peter.bews@as.uni-heidelberg.de

Are you a Boggler or a Burstin Lump?

Bogglers are from Burray and Burstin Lumps come from Egilsay These are their teu neems (nicknames) and every parish has one. How did they originate? Just like any nickname I suppose; someone thought that it fitted a particular parishioner and the name then became associated with everyone in the parish. Some are not very complimentary but then few nicknames are. We had a peedie stushie about Limpets and Goslings in the March issue and this prompted John Craigie, Member No 2143 to provide this definitive (or maybe not) list for all the Orkney parishes.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| BIRSAY | Dogs or Does |
| BURRAY | Oily Bogies or Bogglers |
| DEERNESS | Skate Rumples |
| EDAY | Scarfs |
| EGILSAY | Burstin Lumps |
| EVIE | Cauld Kail |
| FIRTH | Oysters |
| FLOTTA | Flukes (Flounders). |
| GAIRSAY | Buckies or Kiddy Baas |
| GRAEMSAY | Goslings |
| GRIMNESS | Gruties H |
| HARRAY | Crabs H |
| HERSTON | Hogs |
| HOLM | Hobblers |
| HOY | Hawks or Tammienorries |
| KIRKWALL | Starlings or Scooties |
| NO.RONALDSAY | Selkies |
| NO. FARAY | Spickoes |
| ORPHIR | Yirnings / Sheep Grippers |
| PAPAY | Dundies |
| RENDALL | Sheep Thieves |
| ROUSAY | Mares |
| SOUTH PARISH | Teeicks |
| SANDAY | Grulie Belkies |
| SANDWICK | Assie Patties |
| SANDWICK S.Ron. | Birkies |
| SCAPA | Luggies |
| SHAPINSAY | Sheep |
| SOUTH WALLS | Lyres |
| St MARGARET'S | |
| HOPE | Scooties |
| STENNESS | Merry Dancers or Skeggs |
| STROMNESS | Bloodie Puddings |
| STRONSAY | Limpets |
| TANKERNESS | Skerry Scrapers |
| WESTRAY | Auks |
| WIDEWALL | Witches |
| WYRE | Whelks |





Norman Windwick's boyhood memories of the Toc H

By Norman Windwick, Member No 393

It doesn't look very exciting above but it was a whole new mesmerising world to a four and a half year old boy who had arrived at the Community Centre from the relative quiet isolation of at the Harray Countryside. My father, **Eric Windwick** and my mother **Belle** had been appointed Caretakers of the centre in 1946 after his 'demob' from the RAF and I was to spend my next ten years in this happy location.



Aunt Winnie with some of the bus drivers

Several buses were left overnight but their doors were never locked making that end of the street a sanctuary for lovers and an endless source of entertainment for us youngsters.

The Community Centre served as a gathering and social place for ex service people who could chat and have a cup of tea or pass the time with some of the activities on offer. There was a kitchen and large canteen with table tennis tables and dart boards. Down the corridor there was a billiard room with two full size tables (snooker had yet to become popular). Further down there was a games room for cards or chess and next door was a small committee room for meetings. At the other side of the corridor was an office from where the Rural Cinema would be launched and finally there was the India Room which hosted large meetings or parties. Outside the main building a large wooden building served as



The Caretaker's House 1946

the conference hall. Most of these rooms and halls were available to the general public.

At the South end there was a free house with free coal for the caretaker (my father) and his family. There was further accommodation at the North end which would be occupied by an assistant caretaker. Towards the rear another wooden house was occupied by the man in charge **Alexander Doloughan** and his family. Alex and **Margaret Doloughan** were affectionately referred to as Pop and Madge but we children would never have dared to be so irreverent. Mr Doloughan commanded respect. They had three grown up children Ian, Alastair and Margaret.



The Doloughans with Jean Norn

Further back still, next to the Peedie Sea, was another hut where Mr and Mrs **Keldie** lived with their small daughter **Maureen**. Maureen, a year younger, was probably my first friend at the old Toc H.



Maureen Keldie, her father and me

The Keldies soon moved to White Street and their house was taken over by a Mr **Morrison** and his two sons **Billy** and **Bernard**. Sadly Mr Morrison lost his life in Bigbreck quarry in 1956. Across the main road was a cottage where Mrs **Colt-herd** stayed with



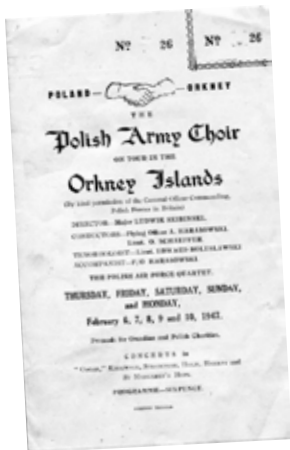
Billy and Bernard Morrison

◀ her children having lost her husband in WW1. Here were more friends to be had. There was **John, Garry** and **Janita Coltherd** and **Coralie Borwick** who lived with them. Half way up West Castle Street there were **Morveen** and **Joan Norn**. Their father kept hens in a enclosure next to the main Community Centre building.



Garry Coltherd, Myself, Maureen Keldie, Sandy Windwick, Janita Coltherd and Coral Borwick

A former school-teacher from Fair Isle Alex Doloughan was now Assistant Director of Education, Director of Further Education and County Youth Organiser. As well as his responsibilities for the Community Centre he was instrumental in the setting up and distribution of the Rural Cinema throughout Orkney. It was during this hectic time in 1946 my father received a summons from the Education Department indicating I was required to attend school in August. My list of friends was about to get longer. 1947 saw yet another example of Doloughan's organising skills as a Polish Army Choir toured Orkney for various charities. By 1948 the Rural Cinema



covered all the Orkney mainland and all the inhabited islands. The first operator recruited to operate the service was a Mr **Sandy Wylie**.

Wherever the venue Sandy had to man-handle all the equipment there and back. This included the projector, screen, film cans, cables, amplifiers and a record player. Journeys to the North Isles could be particularly daunting. On a trip to North Ronaldsay in October 1948 Sandy's suitcase was washed overboard. As well as his personal clothing it contained photographs, the takings from the Dounby film show (£8) and a brand new camera valued at £49. Looking back almost 70 years it still amazes me to remember some of the wonders



Sandy Wylie

this quiet, patient man produced for us children. His tobacco box packed with wires and connectors must have been the original blue chip. He could melt Walliwall stone and grind his own lenses. I remember seeing a close-up of his house in Burray taken from the top of Wideford Hill. Without doubt the cleverest man I have ever met.

The work load at the Community Centre was getting too great for one person and an advert was placed for help. In the summer of 1949 my uncle **Willie**, Aunt **Winnie** and their children **Evelyn** and **Allan** arrived from Dalkeith. Winnie was to take up the position of assistant caretaker and Willie was to return to his trade as blacksmith engineer with Orkney Builders. They occupied the house at the North



Willie and Winnie Windwick



Allan Windwick and his dog

main canteen floor and the long corridor having concrete floors it was a Mecca for roller skaters. Weekends had another bonus. Every film destined for the Rural Cinema had to be checked in full and Alex Doloughan took it upon himself to carry out this time consuming task. In other words every Sunday evening there was a free film show in the India Room for family and invited guests.



Evelyn Windwick

Another cousin, **Jim Sinclair** from Queen Street, was to be a special friend and his sister was born in our house on 19th April 1951. Together Jim and myself spent endless time rummaging in the dirt and rubbish in the Peedie Sea which at that time was the municipal dump. A favourite play area was behind ▶



The Mudlarks: Jim Sinclair and myself

Willie Hercus, from Victoria Street and **Russell Corsie** from Willowburn Road. By now we were



Willie Hercus

which was covered in broken glass. We also discovered, by negotiating the Rufflies (boulders) which protected the base of the Burgh wall from the Peedie Sea, we had a short cut to the Ayre Houses and two more friends **Phil Brough** and **Leslie Hibbert**. It was also easy access for **Dougie Grant** from the Ayre Mills. His mother was a Windwick.

◀ the fire station where two old derelict lorries had been dumped. The platforms had been removed or rotted away and they had solid rubber tyres. On the side of the cabs was written R GARDEN.

We were soon joined by yet another cousin, **Mike Parkins** and school friends



Mike Parkins with uncle Allie Windwick

brave enough to explore over the high wall of the Burgh Yard the top of



Me and Russell Corsie at the Peedie Sea

Strange things had been happening since 1950. A large area behind the fire station and all the way South to the foot of West Tankerness Lane was cleared. Large steel tanks lay on their sides and were open at one end. With a few old bits of carpet and the odd candle they served as gang huts until someone very official chased us away. Soon lorries started arriving with loads of girders and mountains of Walliwall stone. Over the next two years a Power Station took shape courtesy of the Scottish Hydro Electric Board. This development changed a lot of things including the peace and quiet. Every evening about 11pm there was a change over of engines and our wooden house started to vibrate. Things were never the same and some time later my father decided to go back to his trade as a butch-



From the top: Leslie Hibbert, Phil Brough, Dougie Grant and myself.



The new Kirkwall Power Station which opened in 1952

er with **Ronald Leith**. In 1956 we packed up and left for Queen Street. It was a worrying time for me. There was a rumour that they were going to put the school leaving age up to 16.

Norman Windwick June 2016



NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ARTICLES

Sorry to 'shout' but it is important that members make a note of the editor's new email address. From now on all articles should be sent to me at

john.sinclair@burnside.myzen.co.uk



By Kristin Parry, Member No 1481

DID YOUR ANCESTORS STAY AT 'GYREHOUSE' STENNESS?

On the slopes of South Rusky Hill beyond the end of the Bigswell road lies the lonely ruin of Gyrehouse. At 40 acres (12 acres of arable) it was a larger holding than many and had probably been enclosed when the common lands of Stenness were divided in 1814. Ann Lyall married Thomas Pottinger about 1890. By 1901 they lived in the nearby farm of Nether Bigswell and were still there in the 1930s. She died in 1945 and he in 1952. There is clearly some family connection between the Lyalls and the Swansons. Both wives were Sinclairs from the Thurso area of Caithness. They might have been sisters, the daughters of Alexander Sinclair and Christian Henderson baptised in Reay, Caithness in 1813 and 1817.

Residents of Gyrehouse, Stenness	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Name		age	age	age	age	age
Alexander Lyall (head). Farmer of 40acres. b.Thurso, Caithness	33	43	53	63	73	-
Mary (nee Sinclair) (wife) (b. Caithness)	44	54	-	-	-	-
Alexander (son) (b. Thurso, Caithness)	7	17	-	-	-	-
Christina (daughter) (b. Orphir)	5	15	25	-	-	-
Robert (son) (b. Orphir)	3	-	-	-	-	-
Annie L.T. (daughter) (b. Stenness)	1	-	21	-	-	-
Jessie T. (servant in 1861, sister in 1861)(b. Thurso, Caithness)	35	-	55	-	-	-
Thomas S. Pottinger (head) Farmer (b. Tankerness)	-	-	-	26	-	-
Annie L.T. (wife) (b. Stenness) nee Lyall	-	-	-	31	-	-
Thomas S. (son) (b. Stenness)	-	-	-	1	-	-
Mark J.S.L. (daughter) (b. Stenness)	-	-	-	4 Mths	-	-
Anne Clouston (b. Orphir) General Servant	-	-	-	15	-	-
George Swanson (boarder) Formerly Gen. Labourer (b. Thurso)	-	64	-	84	-	-
Annie (wife) (boarder) (b. Thurso)	-	57	-	76	-	-
William Johnston (grandson) (b. Stromness)	-	3	-	-	-	-
Donald Johnston (head) (b. Walls) Farmer	-	-	-	-	-	42
Ann (wife) married 17 years, 7 children all living (b. Graemsay)	-	-	-	-	-	45
James (son) (b. Kincardine)	-	-	-	-	-	11
Robert (son) (b. Aberdeen)	-	-	-	-	-	9
Magnus Lyon (son) (b. Stenness)	-	-	-	-	-	8
Daniel (son) (b. Stenness)	-	-	-	-	-	6
Samuel S. (son) (b. Stenness)	-	-	-	-	-	4
Hugh Wilson (son) (b. Stenness)	-	-	-	-	-	1

It's nice to see a 'Tumbledown' page again

I am delighted that Kristin has revived 'Tumbledown' which first was introduced by Alan Clouston during his time as 'Chair' of the Orkney Family History Society. Alan's 'Tumbledowns' concentrated on Orphir and his last one appeared in 2011. He had hoped that some of the members might continue the series with another Parish and while we have had a few contributions, no one so far has been able to sustain the effort. Kristin tells me that she might have a few more up her sleeve and if so I am sure she can count on an enthusiastic readership among her fellow members. Apart from being of general interest it is a published record of the history of these old 'ancestral homes' which will soon have disappeared forever. And, by the way Alan, I see an Orphir Clouston in the middle of Kristin's list. A distant relation perhaps? Ed



Jean Henderson takes you on a stroll down memory lane

For weemen's fashions there wis Croy's who also catered for men and boys.

*L.A.M Robertson next the haberdasher she wis owld and canny,
Her peedie dark and well-stocked shop wis next tae Dods Swannee
Sutherland the chemist moved it's roots but still survives in spite o' Boots.
And Sena Bain hid a grocer's shop at the top o' Eccles Closs
Wis helped by husband Lewis but clearly she wis boss.
Next Scott the Boot Shop on its own then Ha Wills at the corner stone.
The Chalmers sellin' deep fried patties and lovely chips fae Orkney
tatties.*

*In Irvine's shop more boots and shoes then David Spence for the
printed news.*

*As I stand in BROAD STREET the owld kirk lukkan doon
On shops that I remember in the centre o'the toon,
The first shop, top o' Tankerness Lane, my wae used tae snigger,
For there wis selt peek corsets for the ladies' fuller figure.*

*Across the street The Wool Shop selling wool and knitting bags,
I remember Jean the owner as she smoked her untipped fags.
The wielding blade and scissors wae a flare and extra quick
Wis the Broad Street barber by the name of Willie Wick.*

*On tae the Cosy Cafe, Bain the painter's shop next door
And J & W Tait's — the ironmongers/grocers store.
I think that Wattie Lobban hid a butcher shop near bye
Sellin' steaks and chops and liver fae wir healthy Orkney kye.*

*On towards the Post Office beside our grand Toon Hall,
Messrs Craigie and Inkster makin' furniture large and small.*

Next Kirkness & Gorie fur fancy food and wine

Sellin all the things you need if ye hid some folk tae dine.

Mr Kemp and Mr Brough their shops stood side by side

Both jewellers selling wedding rings for the young man's future bride.

Solicitors and Banks are next then Sinclair's draper store.

I remember it distinctly wae it's splintered widen floor.

Now Lipton's first in ALBERT STREET in the window you wid look

No point in going in this shop without a ration book.

Then Morgan the jeweller selling various different things

Cigarettes and fishing reels as weel as diamond rings.

Across the street a chemist shop, the staff wore coats of white

The name I can't remember but it may be D.M.Wright.

Next McDonald's butcher shop selt chicken, pork and meat,

And another butcher, name o'Leith, a stone's throw doon the street.

At the school at playtime or if you were playn' hookie

You'd join the queue at Nicholson's to buy a creamy cookie.

L.A.M.Robertson had another shop for children's books and toys

A peedie shop just packed wae things for peedie girls and boys.

Also she selt knittng needles, wool and purms o' threed,

Remembering the wide brimmed hats she wore upon her heid.

Groundwater the baker stills sells cookies by the gross,

And next the Dundee Shoe Shop which was run by Dugid Ross.

One sad day for all film fans heartbroken when they fund

Our grand old Albert Kinema was burnt doon tae the grund.

The Orcadian Office next in line, Ernest Marwick wis yer man

For he wid show you books tae read and ink nibs for yer pen.

Hourston another jeweller shop displayed so many things,

Chains of gold and silver, crystal beads and gemstone rings.

If you needed household linen, simmets, shirts or pants

You called on Kemp the Draper for he stocked all yer body wants.

Next Turfus the boot shop sellin' boots and shoes and more,

And like W.I.Sinclair's it had a splintered widen floor.

Davy Foubisters grocer shop stood small and dark inside,

But the wife a'hint the coonter hid a smile she didna hide.

On tae Zandrie's cafe selling ice cream pink and white,

And fur a treat on a Sunday we'd buy a lime ice drink.

Boots the Chemist still exists perhaps wur first chain store,

And Woolies traded fur many a year but alas it is no more.

John Sclater now a draper selling' suits for work and leisure,

And if you could afford it you could get wan made to measure.

Next P.C.Flett and Cumming & Spence then Glues for fruit and plants,

So many shops tae choose fae for all the people's wants.

Peedie Charlie's Cafe next a fine place for a break

Wae a frothy milky coffee and chocolate icing cake.

George Rendall's next a fine big shop a housewife's favourite store

For all thir household needs wur here and claes and so much more.

Across the street a menswear shop, well known across the Firth,

Traded here for many a year in the name of J. Hepworth.

The last two shops in Albert Street hiv a view that is quite clear

As they luk doon through BRIDGE STREET and on tae Kirkwall Pier

Both Leonard's and Stevenson's were stationers side by side

Providing all the islanders wae news fae far and wide.

I remember Mr Maxwell a grocer kent tae please,

And it was said that he wid lick the knife that cut the cheese.

Now there's Sinclair's music shop no DVDs selt here,

Just owld fashioned records played on gramophones I hear.

Nicol Spence, a hardware shop was things for D.I.Y

Bob Garden jest across the street wae electric goods tae buy.

Next the Bridge Street barber, his name I didna ken

Cutting hair and sometimes shaving owld and hairy men.

Still trading Scott and Miller been there fur many a year

And there's Foulis the butcher but he's no longer here.

The Co-op it hid a grocer store and a butcher shop fur bye

Then on tae Geordie Arthur who baked a tasty crusty pie.

R.Garden wis a wholesale store for shops and farmer's needs

Sellin' sewing needles tae fencing stabs and every kind o' seeds.

Flett & Sons hid a baker shop and a hardware shop as weel

Sellin' a' thing that yer folks wid need as weel as fine bere meal.

And the shop that you would visit if makin a seafood dish

Wid be Scott's the fish shop who selt every kind o' fish.

And so tae Crawford's cafe being the last shop in the street,

Full o' sweets, chocs and ice cream tae gae yersel a treat.

JEAN HENDERSON.

Member No 1664

*The shop that wis next tae Burger's Bay wis owned by Maggie Little,
She selt breed and scones and current buns and bars o' peanut brittle.
Then in MAIN STREET — Costies — full o' lovely treats,
Lemonade and ice cream and jers o' hard boiled sweets.
A sweetie shop across the street of dear whit did y' call him?
Ah yes noo I remember — his name wis Attie Allan.
On wae go and soon we pass the grocer shop o' Norman Brass.
Across the road and so we greet the shops along VICTORIA STREET.*

*Two jeweller shops, wan wis Harcus, repaired owld clocks and broken
watches.*

Across the street, the other one, owned by Daddy Ivy's soon.

Bravely William Shearer stands ignoring stores wae cheaper brands.

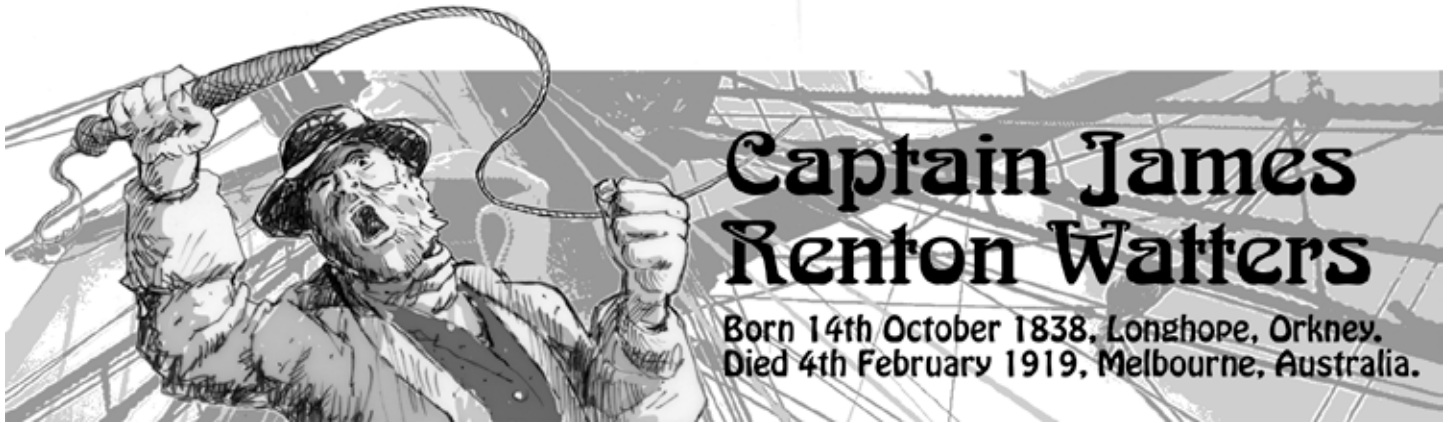
Dad Kemp the barber, he wis there, cutting men's and children's hair.

*Winkie Cumming and Sutherland Taylor now Bruce's Stores another
retailer.*

Across the street The Bakery, that did deserve a medal

Bakin' cookies, bannocks, pies and buns made by Sandy Hedde.





By Robyn Watters, Member No 3607

*The ancient master mariner described by Coleridge:
"The mariner whose eye is bright,
Whose beard is aged with hoar."*

and my great-grandfather Captain **James Renton Watters**, son of Longhope could scarcely be more different.

Picturing a fine specimen of a man and a commanding one too, it was most disappointing to read about Captain Watters in the Melbourne scandal-rag of the day, *The Truth* newspaper.

Family legend and *The Truth* article, dated 21 September 1918, collided and dispelled the myth of the admirable Captain Watters by calling him "an oleaginous octogenarian". I had a fair idea what "oleaginous" meant but the dictionary confirmed it as an oily, offensively ingratiating manner. Oh dear. What other qualities of Captain Watters were there to discover?

The baptismal record of 22 January 1839 Walls and Flotta, lists his parents as **Edward Watters** and **Jean Allan**. According to various Censuses, there were to be seven children in all, five boys and two girls. One of those children, **John Watters**, sibling to Captain James, was to sire children who were to lose their father in a tragic boating accident in 1881. Their mother died in 1882 and they became orphans. A family member in the United States assisted them to emigrate there. This the subject of an article in SFN/45/19 (March 2008) *It all Started with a Boatload of Turnips*.

What became though of the orphans' uncle, Captain Watters? His last entry in the 1851 Scottish census was when he was 13 and living in Stronsay with a relative. In 1867 he received his UK Only Mate certificate when he was 28. This certified that he could take control of the vessel should the master be incapacitated. Captain Watters did not appear in future Scottish censuses, rather he sailed for a livelihood and didn't put down roots until 1874 when he and his new bride settled in Melbourne, Australia.

This was my first clue that my great-grandfather did things to advantage himself. Miss **Eliza Ann Titter**, formerly of Poplar, later of Greymouth, New Zealand, was 17 when she married him. Captain Watters signed the marriage certificate with a flourish putting his age down as 30.



Eliza Ann Titter

He was in fact 36, nearly 20 years Eliza's senior. He then commanded the sailing ship *Alma* to Melbourne bringing his new wife with him. He continued to sail commanding the *Alma* for 8 years to Westport Bar Harbour (South Island, New Zealand) until 1881 and possibly beyond this period. He described his occupation as 'master mariner' on the Electoral Rolls until he died in 1919 aged 81.

Great-Grandfather sired eight children, three sons and five daughters. His youngest child was my grandfather, **Robert Frederick Watters**, born 1892.

My knowledge of Captain Watters was limited to the description given by his son Robert's daughter, **Norma Madeline Watters**, who was born after he died. My Aunt Norma always described him as being 6 feet tall with cold steel grey-blue eyes. One memorable Christmas about 10 years ago, my father Robert Cornelius Watters, Norma's brother, injected a touch of realism into the mix. Norma had sanitised the cargo that Captain Watters carried; she maintained he "was on the China tea trade". My father though was adamant that their grandfather carried a grisly cargo of Kanaka slave labourers (South Sea islanders) to Queensland. Who was right?

Well, I haven't yet investigated Captain Watters' manifest over his sailing years but I did get a jolt when I came across the story about his character in *The Truth*. *The Truth* was notoriously enjoyed by Melburnians squeezing every detail of salacious gossip out of the 1918 Saturday edition. It can be easy to collect the facts but what is the story behind them? As a solicitor, I'm very aware of the hazards of opinion versus the facts. Fortunately for posterity, one hundred years ago, the newspaper reproduced details of the courtroom drama played out between great-grandfather and two of his daughters.

Captain Watters was described as a "partially deaf and somewhat dismal-looking old party" who claimed that his clothes and a pair of hedge clippers that he left at his daughter's house were missing when he went to retrieve them from her. What's more "when his drawers were handed to him, he noticed that someone had BEEN WEARING THEM as they were all worn out at the crutch." Furthermore great-grandfather claimed ▶



Robert Frederick Watters

◀his wife, my great-grandmother Eliza Ann, was “a confirmed prostitute”. He also claimed two of his daughters were not his “Take a look at the difference in our appearance to judge for yourself.” Under oath he denied he physically assaulted Eliza Ann to the extent she was in hospital. He also was a serial philanderer according to his daughter and a “most disreputable scoundrel and a wicked man”. There is no doubt that Captain Watters was suffering from dementia (and died the following year) however the evidence leaves no doubt as to his character. He was used to being obeyed and doing as he pleased.

His eight children faced the vicissitudes of life. His eldest daughter Alice started off adult life giving birth ex-nuptially and featuring as a middle-aged woman in the newspaper as one whose home was used to sell sly-grog. Captain Watters’ eldest son William died at two years of



Florence May Watters and Jane Watters

age. His next son James appeared to have married but this did not last. James spent his years living with his mother Eliza Ann. Captain Watters’ daughter Florence was possibly murdered by her husband although the coroner returned a verdict of suicide by drowning. Florence’s offspring included a daughter who was adopted out of the family. His next two daughters, **Jane Watters** and **Ethel Watters** appear to have had stable marriages. His youngest daughter Ruby was the wild-child of the family marrying twice giving birth to an ex-nuptial child in between.

His last child was my grandfather **Robert Frederick Watters**. Given that he would have been brought up in a fatherless home for 10 years before marrying my grand-



Ruby Watters

mother, he had a remarkably stable lifelong relationship with his wife, Ellen (nee Oakley).

So did emigration to Australia work for Captain Watters and his offspring? The alternative was extended family support which would have stabilised relationships if he had stayed in the Orkney Isles. This seafarer however had wanderlust in his blood and it suited him to do as he pleased far away from prying family eyes. His children and their children fared variably as to be expected in a large family steeped in the working class. Captain Watters has at least two granddaughters still alive, my aunt **Norma Watters** being one of them. She is 92 and in a nursing home.



My aunt Norma Watters

Some of his great-grandchildren have found each other using genealogy software. **Florence Watters’** grand-daughter and I have recently made contact and we both occasionally contact the spouse of Jane Watters’ grandson. I’ve also had a request for assistance at finding family for Ruby’s grand-daughter. This means four families of the eight children of Captain Watters are in contact, not bad considering that two of his sons died without issue (having children).

I’ve also been put in contact with our American Watters’ cousins who descended from **John Watters**, he who sadly drowned near the Roan of Flotta.

So with the advent of the internet and the marvellous work of the Orkney Family History Society, we have extended our Watters’ family network. As an only child, I not only find this inclusive but also identity building. The Watters over the generations have gained increasing prosperity and speaking for myself, I can say thank you to the Orkney Isles who dispatched one of their sons to the other side of the world.

If any local Orcadians can add to the story, I’d be delighted. You can email me at rwwatters@gmail.com

My publicly available tree on Ancestry.com.au is ‘Brown’ where the Watters lineage is set out. ■

Would you like to send your editor a nice Christmas gift?

Well I know that what he would like most of all would be an article for *Sib Folk News*. Articles can be as short as a page (about 900 words) or longer. Each subsequent page will require about 1100 words and this allows for inclusion of a photograph. The more photos you have the less you have to write. Articles should be in plain text without any formatting and a Word doc is fine. Scan photos at 300dpi as best or highest quality. Email to john.sinclair@burnside.myzen.co.uk by October 29th (or earlier would be better) and your gift can be shared with all of our members.



I escaped the dreaded midge but got bitten by the genealogy bug at St Peters

By Mandy Thomson, Member No 2482

In the last few years, I've got the genealogy bug. After doing a bit of research, I went back to the St Peter's Kirkyard, Eastside, South Ronaldsay, Orkney - armed with a notebook (with a few names from the tree so far) to go relative spotting.

My great great great Granddad - **Donald Harrold** has a marker, but I didn't see the name of his son, my great great Granddad, also **Donald Harrold**. My interest in him started with his name. It seemed to be a good name to research, there were a small number of the Harrolds on South Ronaldsay. Where they were mentioned in census, birth, marriage, death and other records, there was a better chance it was them, rather than someone with a same or similar name.

Donald Harrold was born 17th December 1837, South Ronaldshay, Orkney. He was the sixth of eight children born to **Donald Harrold** (1791- 1866) and **Janet Cormack** (1797-1878) since they were married on 26th June 1823 at Aikers, South Ronaldshay, Orkney.

He followed his father into the family business. In the 1861 census, his occupation listed as Cooper and was staying at Fauld, N Parish, District 4, Property 58, South Ronaldshay, Orkney. With him are his parents, sister Mary and his new wife **Jacobina Brock Gunn** (1835-1875). Jacobina was the daughter of **Donald Gunn** and **Jacobina Brock**.

They were married in Walls, Orkney -

February 1861.

Their children were:

- **Robina Gunn Harrold** (1862 - 1945)
- **Janet Cormack Harrold** (1864 - ????)
- **Isabella Muir Harrold** (1867 - 1950)
- **Mary Ann Harrold** (1868 - 1929)
- **Elizabeth Harrold** (1871 - 1957)
- **Donald Harrold** (1873 - 1928)
- **Benjamin Doull Harrold** (1875 - 1963)

By the 1871 Census he was living at Falls, Grimness, South Ronaldsay, Orkney.

The South Ronaldsay section of "Peace's Orkney and Shetland Almanac 1875" has him listed as a Fish Curer.

Jacobina died, soon after the birth of their son **Benjamin Doull Harrold**, 12th May 1875, South Ronaldshay, Orkney.

He married, for the second time, to **Margaret Cromarty** (1846-?) 13th July 1875 at Brichans, Grimness, South Ronaldshay, Ork-

ney. She was the daughter of **John Cromarty** (1800-1874) and **Margaret Stewart** (1804 - 1877). By the time she married, her Father, and most, if not all of her eight brothers and sisters were gone. She isn't on the 1881 census living with Donald and he is listed as a Widower by 1891. They don't seem to have had children. Does anyone have further information about her?

Times were hard in the Fishing industry in the late 1870s. By April 1876, a notice had been placed in "The Edinburgh Gazette" by **William Tomison Norquay**, Agent of the Union Bank of Scotland at Saint Margaret's Hope as he had been elected Trustee on the Bankrupt Estate.

William T. Norquay later represented South Ronaldsay at the Napier Commission in 1883. He was asked about the fishing, and said "I heard some remark about the decrease of boats in Orkney. The number, I believe, is now about one-half what it used to be."

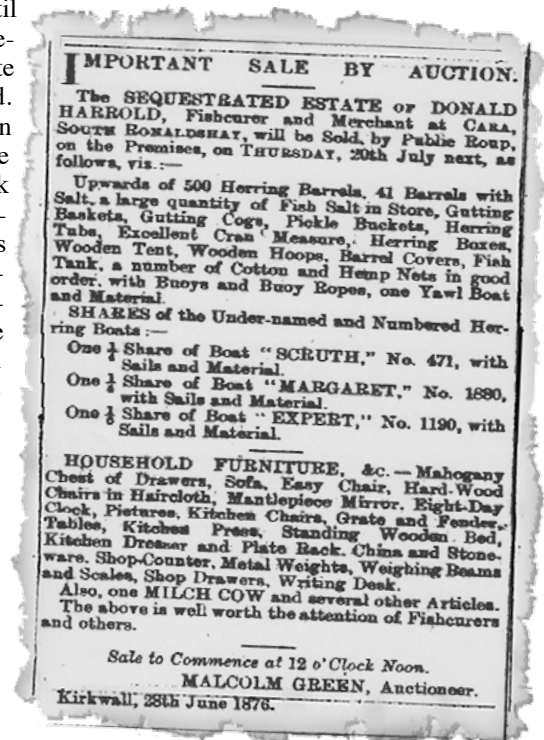
July 1876, Donald auctioned his business and personal belongings. This included shares in fishing boats, nets, ropes, furniture and a milch cow.

Orkney Herald - July 1876

It took until 1877 for the Sequestrated Estate to be settled. A handwritten extract of the Sederunt Book (bankruptcy proceedings) was in National Archives of Scotland. In these papers, Donald makes a statement, he left his business and family for some time and was embarrassed by the growing debt, he travelled to Shetland after "not making profits for some years."

"I attribute my difficulties in great mark to my not being able to look after my South Ronaldshay business during that ... absence."

The 1881 Census shows a busy household. Donald age ▶



◀ 43, occupation: Cooper, with 8 of his children (all under 18 years old), at Lower Cara – Property 57.

While in 1891 he is living at Ferry, with 5 children (Donald, Janet, Lizzie, Robina, Isabella) and 4 grandchildren(all under the age of 2).

Donald's third marriage was to **Elizabeth Glenn** (1866 - 1964) in Newington, Edinburgh, Scotland. 25th September 1900. They had one child, **Catherine Laughton Eunson Harrold** (1902 – 1996).

Census of 1901 shows Donald and Elizabeth living together at Cara, Property 17, District 4, South Ronaldsay, Orkney. With his occupation being Cooper.

Next door at Cara, Property 18, his daughter Isabella was living with her husband, **Edward Shoard** (1866-????), an Export Packer, with 4 of their children.

Nearby at New Castle(Property 22),South Ronaldsay , his daughter **Elizabeth Swannie** (Cooper's wife) was with 4 of her children. Her husband **David Reid Swannie** (1864-1923) was away from home the day the census was taken

United States Census, 1910 - Chicago Ward 3, Cook, Illinois, United States – His son Donald is with his wife **Mary Ann Johnston Baikie** (1871 – 1935) with 4 of their children, including their son **Donald Harrold Jr.**(1899 - 1991)

Census of 1911 shows him at Ferry No. 2, Property 8, District 4, Grimness, South Ronaldsay, Orkney with his wife of 10 years, Elizabeth and his daughter Catherine, age 8.

Nearby his daughter Mary and her husband **John Thomson**(1853-1931) were at Rumly – Property 25 with their 6 children.

Donald's daughter Robina (widow of **William Gutcher / Goodsir** (1858-1910) and 6 of their children were at Property 12, Hall of Cara

Benjamin, having emigrated to Canada, is listed in Canada 1911 census at Victoria Sub-Districts 1-51, Alberta, Canada. Aged 35. Living with him are 2 of his children and his wife **Adabelle Elizabeth Brown** (1880 – 1966).

Only a few days after his grand daughter **Isabella Goodsir** (1902-1911)died (She is listed on the same page of the Statutory Death register in 1911.) Donald Harrold died 26th October 1911, aged 74. Ferry, Grimness, South Ronaldsay, Orkney.

Links:

- My family tree site : <http://srfamily.tribalpages.com/tribe/browse?userid=srfamily&view=9&ver=869>
- H. Alex Cromarty has a photo of Donald Harrold his sons Ben and Donald and possibly his 2nd or 3rd wife or his daughter, Robina. <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cromartygray/margaretCromartyHarrold1846.htm>

If any member can add to this story I would be delighted to hear from them <mandythomson54@yahoo.co.uk>

PS. Should you venture down to St Peter's Kirk in South Ronaldsay, not only will you see great great grandad's obilisk but you will also discover, at the Pool of Cletts near the old kirk, a beautiful stone, carved by a local man, Willie Budge, to mark the new millennium.




A Westray Drever might find this interesting

Gregor Lamb came across this photograph after his brother David, on the right, passed away.

It was taken at the end of World War 2 in a camp in India and is dated 8.7.45.

The inscription on the back of the photograph reads:–
"This is an old mate and I – Robert Drever from Westray. We happened to meet in a restaurant in town. I Can see that he has grown a great deal and is as brown as a berry. He has been out here for six weeks and was in this camp before me and now at a camp not far away. You can imagine the surprise and different yarns we had to exchange as I hadn't seen him since we were both in Aberdeen."

Gregor tells me that he is quite willing to pass the original (which shows the figures full length) on to any family member. ■



Articulus Rarus'

An elusive species indeed

They originated in Orkney and although they can now be found all over the world I am fortunate to find one or two per month.

Sib Folk News depends on a constant supply for without them it will wither and die.

Don't let that happen. You might even be able to find one where you live. If so email it as soon as possible to me at john.sinclair@burnside.myzen.co.uk and I will make sure that it is preserved for the future generations. ■



By Alastair MacDonald, Member No 956

I read Gregor Lamb's article on Stymilders with much interest as I believe it gives me the answer to my long-time search for my Grandmother's birthplace. She was **Elizabeth Sinclair Robertson**, born 5th August 1866, the daughter of **Alexander Robertson**, Parochial Schoolmaster of Evie and Rendall, and **Jessie Laird Sinclair**, daughter of **John Sinclair**, Parochial School-

Hill of Anderswick and the said old road up to the sea on the west coast. The only township named as being in this western ED is Ireland.

In the 1841 census the Parochial Shool is in the central ED with **Joseph Isbister**, age 60, as the Parochial Schoolmaster. My g.g.grandfather **John Sinclair**, born Firth 1st October 1820, was then a schoolmaster in Bur-

ray, but in 1842 he married **Elizabeth Laird** there, probably because he had been appointed to succeed Joseph Isbister as when their first child, also **John Sinclair**, was born in 1843 he was already the Parochial Schoolmaster of Firth and Stenness. In 1851 he was still the Parochial Schoolmaster and the Parish School was still situated in the central ED, but in the 1861 and 1871 Censuses the Parish School was in the eastern ED. In the light of Gregor Lamb's article it is clear that this must have been the new school in the building which later became Stymilders.

John Sinclair retired as Parochial Schoolmaster in about 1875 and was succeeded in

1866 ROBERTSON, ELIZABETH SINCL (Statutory Births 017/00 0021)

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Page 7.

1866. BIRTHS in the Parish of *St. Andrew's* in the County of *Orkney*

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Profession, & Rank or Position of Father, Name, and Address of Mother, Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if not of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
19	<i>Robertson</i>	<i>1866</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>John Robertson</i>	<i>James McKay</i>	<i>1866</i>
	<i>Isbister</i>	<i>July</i>		<i>Isbister</i>	<i>Isbister</i>	<i>August 11th</i>
	<i>Stymilders</i>	<i>6th Oct. P.M.</i>		<i>Isbister</i>	<i>Isbister</i>	<i>Stymilders</i>
20	<i>Wood</i>	<i>1866</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>William Wood</i>	<i>W. Wood</i>	<i>1866</i>
	<i>Wood</i>	<i>July</i>		<i>Merchant</i>	<i>Firth</i>	<i>August 18th</i>
	<i>Stymilders</i>	<i>8th Oct. P.M.</i>		<i>Jemima Wood</i>	<i>Isbister</i>	<i>Stymilders</i>
21	<i>Robertson</i>	<i>1866</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Alexander Robertson</i>	<i>McKay</i>	<i>1866</i>
	<i>Robertson</i>	<i>August</i>		<i>Parochial Schoolmaster</i>	<i>Firth</i>	<i>August 18th</i>
	<i>Stymilders</i>	<i>5th Oct. P.M.</i>		<i>Isbister</i>	<i>Isbister</i>	<i>Stymilders</i>

John Sinclair, Registrar

master of Firth and Stenness. Her entry in the Statutory Births Register gives the place of birth as the Parochial School Stennis (sic) but up to now I have never known for certain just where that was.

For the purpose of all Censuses up to that of 1891 the Stenness part of the Parish of Firth and Stenness was divided into three Enumeration Districts (ED's). The eastern ED ran from the boundary with the Firth part of the Parish westward to the big (or Muckle) Burn of Stenness, the central ED from the big Burn of Stenness westward to the Hill of Anderswick and the old road from Naighs to Bridge of Waithe, and the western ED from the

that post by **Magnus Spence**, as when the latter married **Jemima Shearer** in 1876 he gave his residence as "Schoolhouse Stenness". There is no indication as to where this schoolhouse then was, but in the 1881 Census Magnus Spence and family were at the Schoolhouse which was now back in the central ED. The first edition of the Ordnance Survey was surveyed in 1880 and the attached extract shows the school's situation in the township of Clouston. Was this a new building, though, or merely the old school reoccupied? Perhaps it was only there temporarily, as in 1891 there was no Parish School recorded in the Stenness part of the parish. There was, however, ▶

◀ what was called the Public School in Horralsdshay in the Firth part of the parish. This had first been recorded in the 1881 Census. The Schoolmaster there was the Stromness-born **William McKay**, who was still there in 1901.

Stymilders first appears as such in the 1881 Census,

1858, which became her residence and still was at the time of her death.

As regards her being a teacher, in both the 1861 and the 1871 Censuses she is described only as “Widow of a farmer” and on her SR Death Register entry she is described as “Pauper - Widow of James Levach, farmer”. If she had been a teacher for so many years it would surely have been mentioned in these. It seems unlikely to me, though, that she would have been qualified to be a teacher. Born to a small farmer in 1803 it is probable that she would have received only a rudimentary education at best and she may have received none at all. The Informant on her husband’s death was her daughter Mary, so it is impossible to say whether or not she was illiterate.

My conclusion is that, as John Sinclair was the Parochial Schoolmaster of Firth and Stenness parish in both 1861 and 1871, then if the Parish School was in the building which later became Stymilders in both those

years, I am confident that it was there that my Grandmother was born. I am grateful to Gregor Lamb for pointing me in the right direction, even if I don’t agree with him about Catharine Levack/Levach.

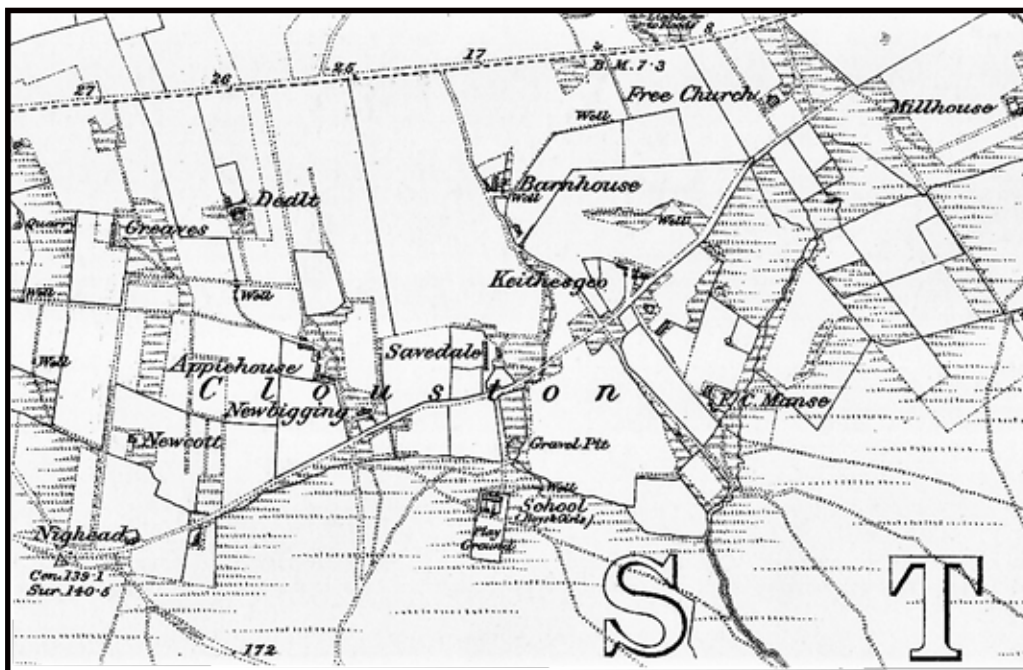
Alastair MacDonbald July 2016

under the name “Stonemilders”, when the occupant was a Widow, **Isabella Smith**, described as a Farmer of 3 Acres. She was also there in 1891 but in 1901 the house was described as “Uninhabited”.

What about **Catharine Leavock/Levack/Levach** though? As a result of my researches I cannot agree with Gregor Lamb’s description of her as “the first perhaps the only teacher” as my conclusion is that she was never a resident of Stymilders nor a schoolteacher. Born in Orphir in 1803 to farmer **George Slater** she was the wife of **James Levach** or **Levack**, also a farmer in Orphir, and on his death in 1858 she moved to the parish of Firth & Stenness. In both the 1861 and 1871 Censuses she was indeed living at a house called Schoolhouse, but this could not be the building which became Stymilders as it was in the western ED of Stenness whereas Stymilders was in the eastern ED right on the boundary with Firth. When she died in 1874 her place of death was given as Ireland, which fits in with her being resident in the western ED. So which Schoolhouse was she living in? In the “2nd Statistical Account of Scotland” compiled between 1834 and 1843, the entry for the Parish of Firth and Stenness written by the Minister and dated July 1841 states that there is one parochial school for both parts of the Parish (i.e. Firth and Stenness) and also one in each part supported by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. The SPCK school appears in both the 1841 and 1851 Censuses, with schoolmaster **Sinclair McKay**, and is stated to be in Ireland township. It does not appear in the 1861 Census nor in any thereafter and it seems to me very likely that it is this SPCK schoolhouse, no longer in use as a school by the time Catharine Levack was widowed in

A final word from Gregor Lamb

Gregor has been in touch with Alastair and myself and has asked me to include the following which hopefully sheds more light on the minefield of researching Stenness schools. ‘The convoluted history of the schools in Stenness raised the question of who was the teacher in the Stymilders school in the middle of the 19th century. It was assumed that the teacher was Catherine Levack who lived in ‘the schoolhouse’ but this schoolhouse was in fact the old school near Button in Stenness. The teacher in Stymilders was in fact John Sinclair. In the Censuses he was declared to be a Stenness resident in the central school which suggested a school central to the parish of Stenness but by ‘central’ it meant ‘central to the parishes of Firth and Stenness’. John actually lived on the boundary of Firth and Stenness but for the purpose of the Censuses was considered a Stenness resident.’ Complicated stuff!!
Editor.





My own precious piece of history in memory of Private Andrew Nicholson

By Kenneth Thomson Member No 3157

The display of poppies at the Tower of London was impressive and immensely moving – 888,246 ‘blooms’ each represented a life tragically lost in WW1.

With the installation of the Weeping Window Poppies at St Magnus Cathedral, it suddenly struck me that one of the poppies would in fact represent the life of a relative of my own.

Pte. **Andrew Nicholson** jnr, 3rd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders was an elder brother of my grandfather **James Drever Nicholson**, formerly of number 4 Slater Street Kirkwall.

Pte Andrew Nicholson jnr was born in Shapinsay, so records tell me, on 26th June 1898 and his parents were **Andrew** and **Margaret Nicholson**, latterly of Little Corse, St Ola. After he left the school, he was working as a postman when he was called up to serve his country. He died in the military hospital in Cromarty on 4th April 1917 age 18 and is buried in the military section of Cromarty cemetery.

I now have a photograph of his gravestone and the last line of the inscription reads ‘Gone but not forgotten’.

It is sad to think that most of my relatives knew little of Pte Andrew Nicholson and I have, over the last few weeks, been looking through records to find out what I can.

His name of course is on the War Memorial on The Kirk Green and on the St Magnus Cathedral Congregation Memorial inside, although on the memorials his surname misses out the ‘h’ as so often happens with the Nicholson name.

My mother has found a photograph of Pte Andrew Nicholson jnr and he will have been 16 or 17 when it was taken. He has an uncanny resemblance to my late grandfather. Although he was born in Shapinsay, by the 1901 census the family had moved to Midhouse in Evie as his parents were farm workers who moved from farm to farm. At the time of my grandfather’s birth in 1903, they were at 3 Frasers Close Kirkwall and by the 1911 census they were at Little Corse Cottage.

I bought a ceramic poppy from the Tower of London display and it will now be suitably engraved with the

name of Pte Andrew Nicholson on the display stand.

The Weeping Window at St Magnus Cathedral is beautiful and what could be more appropriate than the doves seen occasionally resting amongst the poppies. Symbols of remembrance and peace. Rest in peace Andrew, you are not forgotten.

Searching for information has led me to find other relatives buried in St Magnus Cathedral cemetery. OFHS information has been invaluable in helping me locate the final resting place of my mother’s great grandparents and her sister who died at only two days old. Unfortunately, others are in unmarked graves and without the original lair plan, it’s difficult to accurately pinpoint. Surely a lair plan must exist somewhere - perhaps safely in a dusty file? ■

*Poppies weep in deep cascades
Over these ancient walls.*

Petals shine like

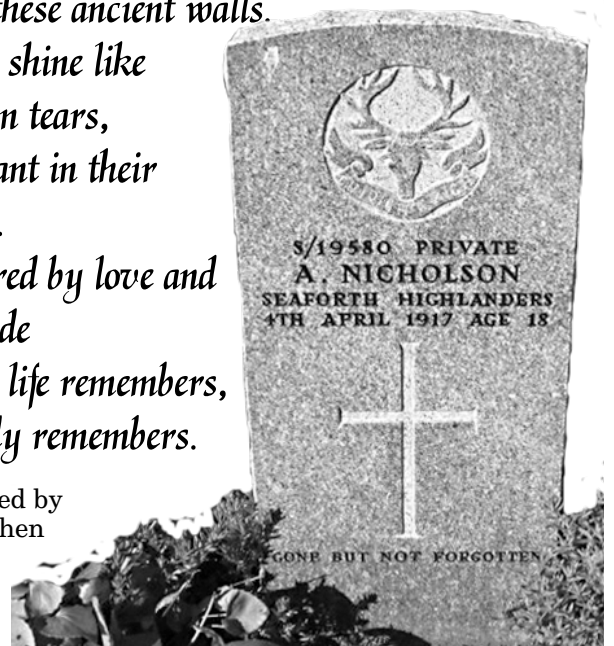
crimson tears,

*Poignant in their
beauty.*

*Inspired by love and
gratitude*

*Each a life remembers,
Silently remembers.*

Composed by
Val Kitchen





By Anne Cormack, Member No 73

Although Sanday in the 1870's was considered as one parish, served by one minister, there were still four churches in use. For most of the year services alternated between the East Kirk in Lady village and the Cross Kirk, while, in addition, on the first Sunday of the month, an afternoon service was held at Rusness, and an evening one in the South End Chapel. It was obvious, however, that each kirk had its faithful adherents, a loyalty no doubt built up over generations of one family. This appeared to be the case in Westray also.

I often wondered therefore whether there was a lot of soul searching among families at the Disruption of 1843, when, at the General Assembly on May 18th that year, four hundred ministers withdrew and established the Free Church of Scotland.

Soul searching or not, they certainly did not waste any time in Sanday in establishing the Free Kirk. A month later, on June 19th, Sanday Free Kirk Session Minutes first appeared. Present were **John Omond** in Burness, with **William Anderson** in Lady Parish and **Thomas Muir**, also Lady Parish as elders. **Jerome Dennison** was elected session clerk, **James Muir** became precentor, having resigned as precentor of Lady Parish, and **John Moodie** became church officer, previously having been church officer for Cross and Burness.

The next meeting was on July 29th, with the minister the **Rev. A. Urquhart**. The chief business was "**Robert Slater** and **Janet Grieve**, guilty of ante-nuptial fornication, have not been allowed back into Lady Parish Kirk. They are admitted into the Free Kirk." An opportunistic way of attracting new members!

Two days later the minutes read "442 communicants, 185 in Cross Parish, 152 in Burness Parish, 65 in Lady Parish, 35 in unknown places and 5 strangers."

By 30th October, the following were elected as elders. "**William Tulloch** in Voy, **James Fea** in Boloquoy, **James Garrioch** in Housgarth, **Edward Sandison** in Parlgo, **Thomas Muir** in Galdry, **Walter Draver** (sic) in Skail, **Jerome Dennison** in Schoolhouse, **John Omond** in Owe, **John Peace** in Oyce, **James Fotheringhame** and **John Tulloch** in Ortie and **Thomas Corse** in Northskaill."

There didn't appear to be any discrimination against women, as on 4th November we read "The following received tokens for their first time – **Margaret Linklater**, **Janet Omond**, **Elizabeth Garioch**, **Barbara Slater**, **Marion Drever** and **Betsy Wilson**." Discipline, howev-

er, had to be maintained. "**John Scott** in Tursiness Hill applied for a token, but he was refused because of his irregular attendance and his neglecting to educate his children."

On the 6th November "There are now 432 communicants." That's down ten from 31st July! That apart, obviously a lot had been achieved in under six months.

By 16 January 1844 money was being distributed to the poor, with amounts ranging from 1/6 to 10/-. **Mr Craigie's** family received the 10/- while **Jessie Towrie** got 5/-, **A & J Peace** were given 4/-, **John Simpson** got 2/6, while amongst the several recipients of the smaller amounts were **Jean Slater**, **Margaret Hay** and **Ann Cormack** (the latter not being one of mine!)

As in the parish churches morals continued to exercise the Session's minds. On 18th March "It was reported that **Betsy Muir** in Little Kirkhall had recently given birth. She was requested to appear." She didn't turn up for the next two meetings, but on 25th March "Betsy Muir appeared and denied she had given birth to a child. She claimed that since an attack of typhus fever, some years ago, she swelled in the cold." She seemed to be a lady with a vivid imagination and an original line in excuses!

I hope that some OFHS members may recognise a forebear in these minutes, whether it be an elder, someone castigated for their morals, or a recipient of poor relief.

Once again I am grateful to fellow member **Brian Tulloch** for sharing his research with me.

Anne Cormack July 2016

LOST THE PLOT?

We have now recorded more than half the graves in Orkney.

The results, in the form of A4 booklets, contain a plan of the graveyard with a surname and stone reference plus a transcript of the monuments. To find out which graveyards have been completed and how to obtain the booklets go to www.orkneyfhs.co.uk and click 'Publications'.





By Mimes Manson, Member No 132

A sasine dated 7th Feb. 1650 records the making over of Skelbister in Sanday from John Cok (old spelling of Cook) to John Miller and Helene Fea his spouse. There was always a John Miller there until 1826 when John Miller made it over to Barbara Miller and her husband James Slater. The name Miller was retained as a middle name in the Slater family and Skelbister was in their possession until it was sold in 1964 by John Miller Slater. Nobody was able to supply information as to who James was but I chanced to find in Ladykirk accounts 1816 the record of John Slatter in Gorn being paid 10 shillings, part payment of a fine for his son, resident in Cross Parish. His son James had been accused, by Traill Urquhart of Elsness, of stealing a backband off a cart from his property and as he did not wish to push the matter to extremity, would fine the accused £1 to be paid to the poor of the Parish. If it was not paid in 10 days he would take criminal proceedings.

The letter was delivered to Gorn and the father, being an old man whose upbringing in earlier days made him fearful of men in Urquhart's position and fearful of his son's position, had gone to the minister with 10 shillings, all he could afford. Mr. Urquhart was not satisfied with part payment and had gone to the public prosecutor to raise a criminal action so the 10 shillings was returned, as a man should not be punished twice for the same crime.

I had a hunch that this was my man, so went to the sheriff court records held in the archives and was able to find a wad of documents concerning the case. There were letters from witnesses excusing their absence; **Patrick Gore** of Warsetter had 3 children very bad with a gin cough, his wife had been ill for some time and he had a severe cough. **James Spence**, merchant, had a cold and his father was in a weak state and not expected to recover. He stated that Slater was a near neighbour for the last 2 years and he had often employed him and found him to be honest.

Several witnesses appeared. Some said Slater had tried to bribe them. One had been offered a piece of land to build a house, a keg of malt and liberty to put a loom in the house where he dwelt. He said the ground belonged to his father-in-law but he expected to succeed to it. Another was offered a pair of white trousers and anything he set his mind on out of a merchant shop. The Jury found him guilty, but for several circumstances recommended him to mercy.

The following record dated 6th Feb. 1817 proves without doubt that I was on to the correct man. **James Slater** residing in Skelbister, son of **John Slater** of Gorn, was guilty of stealing an iron backband, part of a cart harness, belonging to John Traill

Urquhart of Elsness and was imprisoned in jail in Kirkwall 'til Thursday 20th Feb. and at 12 o'clock noon that day to be taken by the officers of the court from the prison and delivered over by them to the common prosecutor of the burgh to be carried by him from the prison to the market cross of Kirkwall and there to stand for the space of half an hour with a label on his breast and another on his back each label bearing the word THIEF in large characters and having the stolen backband fastened around his neck and thereafter to be drummed from the cross to the head of the town of Kirkwall and thence to the shore by the town drummer, town officers and prosecutor with the backband about his neck and the labels on his back and breast.

A copy of the sentence was to be read by the church officers at the doors of the churches in Lady Parish and Cross Parish in Sanday on Sunday the 23rd Feb. after divine service. At the time Skelbister was the one small place in Cross Parish still owned by the family as most of the places had been taken over by big landlords. **Walter Trail Dennission** wrote of a man who sold his place for a lifetime supply of snuff and then died very shortly after. (Old time drug trade?) James and Barbara had ten children. He died before 1851 and she died at Skelbister at 8.30pm May 28th 1866. Two grandchildren became provosts of Kirkwall, and there are many descendants in Orkney and elsewhere. ■

Is your Membership due for renewal?

You can check by logging into www.orkneyfhs.co.uk and entering your password. If you don't know this or have forgotten it simply enter your email address in the space provided and it will be sent to you.

When you have logged in successfully click on **Members Page**. On the page that opens click **My Details**. All your information is listed here and you can make any changes if necessary. If your membership is due for renewal use the link from **My Details** on the Members Page. Check the membership category and click on the **Pay Now** button and you will be transferred to Pay Pal.

Use the Pay with a Debit or Credit card option and complete the form. Pay Pal will suggest that you create a Pay Pal account but you can just ignore this. Just click on the **No Thanks** link. That should complete the transaction and you will receive a payment confirmation email.

US DOLLAR and FOREIGN CHEQUES

Often we have trouble with dollar cheques if there is the slightest deviation in the correct written detail or if any words are abbreviated. This usually results in our bank refusing to honour the cheque.

With Foreign Cheques there is at least a two week delay before these are cleared.

The use of Pay Pal as described above would obviate these problems and help our cash flow considerably. ■



Great great great Granfather is buried in St Magnus Cathedral graveyard.

Any help with my Orkney Allans would be greatly appreciated

My name is **Derek Wilson Allan**, member 3513, born in Edinburgh on the 3rd of July 1934. My Orkney connection is through my grandfather **Donald Allan** (born in Kirkwall 1/1/1876) (died 9/8/1951). His brother (my Great Uncle) **John McDonald Allan** (born 3/7/1878) and died 19/2/1968. Their sister (my Great Aunt) **Anna-**

bella Allan (born 3/9/1874) married **Peter Goodlad** of Lerwick who was a successful shoemaker and owned a shop in Lerwick and he was also the provost of Lerwick. I believe there are still some Goodlads living in Shetland. They also had a brother **David Allan** who was born in 1879 but sadly died young. My Great Great Grandfather Donald Allan (born 25/7/1821) and died 8/4/1877) is buried with his family in the Kirkyard of St Magnus Cathedral. I believe there are still Allans in Orkney?

I assumed that the Allans had all originated from the Orkney Islands but a few years ago I met a fellow Allan, George Allan, a licensed grocer in Edinburgh. George told me he had been brought up as a boy on one of the Islands just off the mainland of Orkney. He was aware that there were Allans on the mainland but his father always denied any kinship with them. It was only after his father died that his mother told him they were in fact all related but were not on speaking terms! George then told me the story that the Allans were originally from Caithness. There were three brothers employed as shepherds on the Duke of Sutherland's estate. The brothers were accused of sheep stealing and were banished from Caithness – no doubt connected with the Highland clearances. Rather than move south all three brothers decided to cross the water to the Orkney Islands. The brothers did not get on with each other and one brother elected to

stay on the mainland in Orkney and the other two took up residence in adjoining islands. George also told me that one of the Allans fought in the Napoleonic wars and died of his wounds in the Bastille in Paris.



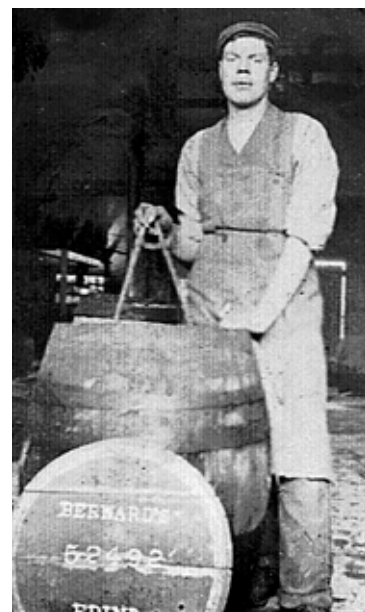
A well turned-out Donald Allan in Princes Street in Scotland's capital

and his brother John left Orkney as young men and took up residence in Edinburgh. In Orkney they were employed as coopers making fish barrels. In Edinburgh they became apprentice coopers making beer barrels.

So there you have it and if any member can add to the story they can email me at fernbank32@yahoo.co.uk ■

I thought this was just a "story" and thought no more of it until my son Kenneth carried out a search on my family tree. Lo and behold the records show the Allans in the late 1700's living at Westside, Dunnett, Caithness. There was no mention of the Allan that died in Paris.

My Grandfather Donald



and as a young Cooper in Edinburgh

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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).

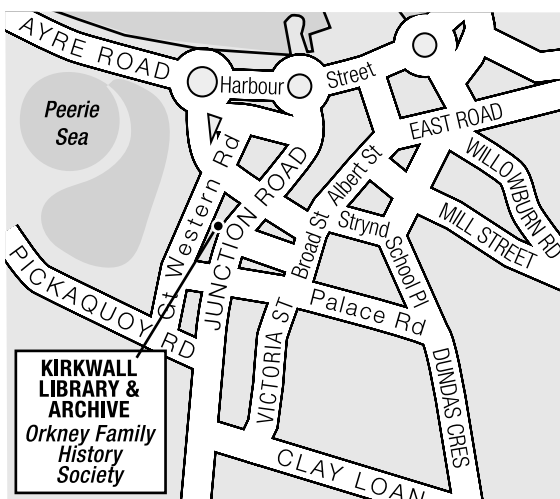
This material is available to members for 'in house' research by arrangement.

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.

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

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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.

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Research Secy. Enquiries should be sent to George Gray until a new research secretary is appointed
Editor. John Sinclair (e-mail: john.sinclair@burnside.myzen.co.uk)
Orkney Family History Society website— www.orkneyfhs.co.uk

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