



SIB FOLK NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORKNEY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

ISSUE No 70 JUNE 2014



CHECK OUT
PAGES 7 AND
22 FOR
MORE INFO

**SIB FOLK
NEWS NEEDS
YOUR
WORLD WAR 1 ARTICLE
FOR OUR SEPTEMBER EDITION**

ORKNEY FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Issue No 70. June 2014

COVER
Your magazine needs
you

PAGE 2
From the Chair

PAGES 3 & 4
Sib News is important

PAGES 5 & 6
Little Duncans
in Deerness

PAGE 7
Send us your WW1 story

PAGES 8 & 9
The Sutherland Boys

PAGE 10
More Bews News and
Metis Reunion

PAGE 11
A Happy
Harry Crab

PAGES 12,13,14,15
The Oman Saga

PAGES 16,17,18
James (Jim) Pottinger

PAGES 19,20,21,22
It was all in a
day's work for
Grandad

PAGE 22
The OFHS
WW1
Exhibition

PAGE 23
Obituary for
Captain
Fred Johnston

PAGE 24
Membership Details



From the Chair

I can't believe that another financial year has passed and we've had our AGM. The meeting very kindly proposed my re-election and those of the Treasurer and Secretary plus all the committee were returned to office. However, we still need two committee members to make up the full complement, so if any of our local members are willing to help, the committee would be very pleased to co-opt you.

As you will see from the accounts we have been able to get back into the black again after the slight hitch last year. The committee acted quickly in 2013 to remedy the deficit by stopping the printing of the Members' Directory and making it available on our website. Many of our members have opted out of receiving their copy of Sib Folk News by post as all copies of the newsletter are also available online and the current copy can usually be viewed ahead of the members receiving their copy in the mail. These measures, together with the small adjustment to the membership subscriptions, have helped us achieve the necessary savings.

I am delighted to report that we have over 200 new members since last year, most of whom are joining on line. They are making good use of all the information we have included on our web-site. Remember you can always contact us at the office if you get stuck in your research or, if you wish, you can put your query on the members message board.

By the time you get this magazine we will have been on our 'Annual Ooting' to the West Mainland and, if space allows, we hope to have a photograph or two in our September newsletter.

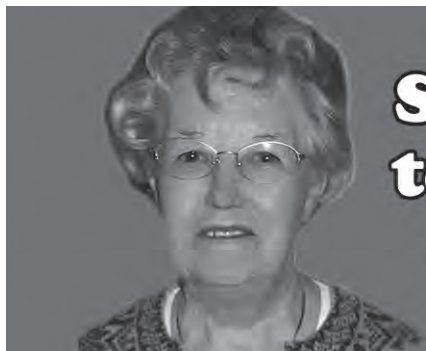
As well as our usual table at the Vintage Rally on 10th August we will be attending the 'Who do you think you are?' exhibition in the Glasgow SECC at the end of August. We have a table booked for the 29th, 30th & 31st August, so if you are at the exhibition please come along and introduce yourselves. We also plan to have our own exhibition in the MacGillivray Room in the Library on 19th & 20th September (see page 22) to give our members the opportunity to tell their own family's personal story of WW1. If you have any photos, documents medals etc. and would be willing to share them with us, please get in touch with me either at the OFHS office or phone me on 01856 874440 (after 6pm). If you don't want to give us the original letters or documents we would be happy to copy them for you at the office.

Don't forget to send in your family story of WW1 to John to include in the September magazine. We are hoping to carry the WW1 theme through most of the pages so your contribution is important to us. See page 7 for more details.

Meantime, enjoy the newsletter, there are lots of interesting articles in this issue.

Anne Rendall

Chair



Sib Folk News is important to our family history society and its continued success depends on your contributions

By Nan Scott, Member No 8, Honorary President of the Orkney Family History Society.

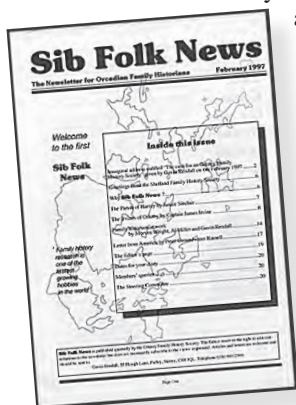
The newsletter of the Orkney Family History has reached its threescore and tenth edition and all this in just over seventeen years. The format has not varied significantly during that time.

Gavin Rendall, who we really have to thank for getting the society off the ground in the first place, agreed to be the first editor. He had already been writing a newsletter called "Westray Roots" for about ten years. He also suggested the name Sib Folk News (sib as in related). It must have kept him



Gavin Rendall

very busy to write the quarterly magazine for the OFHS and also the occasional "Westray Roots" which continued periodically for another ten years. As well as that he lived in the south of England and at a time when most of the members were not using mobile phones or sending and receiving e-mail messages. None of that stopped him from producing a 20 page magazine, A4 size for February 1997. The magazine was printed by Rainbow Enterprises at Dyce, Aberdeen. This went well until one December issue failed to appear and on enquiry was found to be lying in a store in Lerwick. After five years Gavin decided to retire as editor hoping that a local person could be found to take it on. He had other interests to follow such as his own Westray Roots and One Name Study. He has also gone on to lead art classes on cruise ships. Pictures of his paintings appeared on the front page of many a copy of "Sib Folk News". His last magazine was no 21 printed in March 2002.



Gavin's issues No1-21

Olaf Mooney, one of the committee members, was becoming very interested in computing but hesitated to become editor on his own when asked. A group of five, Nan Scott, Adrienne Leask, Irene Miller, Dave Higgins along with the general secretary Gillian Mooney were appointed to "help" Olaf to edit four issues. He did not really need much help and so continued on his own as editor for no 26 in June 2003.



Olaf Mooney—issues 22-30

He had the advantage of having been involved in all aspects of the OFHS's development since its inauguration and like Gavin was able to produce magazines of twenty to twenty four pages. He said in the letter from the editor in June 2004, his last edition, that he wanted to resign for personal reasons. He had enjoyed the work and was grateful to contributors and to members for their encouragement.

At the OFHS AGM of 13th May 2004 another member, John Sinclair volunteered to produce the September issue. John had settled back in Orkney as his heart had always been there. His background was advertising and his working life had been spent in advertising agencies studios and later as an account director. His computer background was on Macintosh machines which are still favoured in the graphics world and he had all the desk top and graphic software needed to produce a professionally designed newsletter. John agreed to 'lend a hand' until a new editor could be appointed and now 40 issues later he is still designing and producing Sib Folk News!

In 2011 we heard that the Aberdeen printer was changing hands and it seemed an appropriate time to transfer the printing to somewhere closer at hand so in



John Sinclair

June of that year the Orcadian Media Group were appointed to print the newsletter. This arrangement works well and printing and delivery is usually completed in one week.

From day one we have been able to produce four editions a year. Frank Eunson, who was the membership secretary at that time, prepared the first mailing of 130 copies at home. When the membership became more than 250, the treasurer, George Gray and his wife Elaine took it over and had to work from home. They laid out all the addressed envelopes in membership number order, covering every inch on every table, bed and suitable surface. After delivery, groups of volunteers have been very good at seeing that the newsletters were prepared for posting to OFHS members and other societies as soon as possible. Forty three go to other history societies in the UK and abroad.



John—issue 31 to current

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◀ The postage rates had to be calculated and the correct stamps affixed. One wonders if George and Elaine had to sleep on the floor some nights but they carried on until numbers reached 500. Arrangements were then made for the Post Office to frank the



George Gray

mail if it was sorted by category.

Things were easier when we got an office. Since then, groups of member volunteers have been very good at seeing that the newsletters were prepared for posting to OFHS members and other history societies at home and abroad. The process now starts with George Gray preparing the labels to go on the envelope. Every label tells a story! The name and address of the member; whether they are paid up members and until recently their concealed password to the OFHS

website. Two numbers give the membership category. A few are left in the office for the volunteers to collect. To assist the Post Office those with Orkney and UK addresses are kept separate. The rest go abroad as overland or airmail. Our office has long been too small for current membership mailings so Orkney Library and Archives allow us the use of a room with tables and their franking machine for the job. Recently Tommy Tulloch, Morag Sinclair and Isobel Stout have been on duty for most of the two days needed. George joins them on the morning of the day that the letters are to be posted and franks the letters which is a help to the post office. In turn the Post Office delivers the crates to be filled and then collects them in time to go straight on to their destination.



Gillian Mooney

All this is a far cry to the early days when Olaf and Gillian Mooney, Davina Brown and George Gray carried shopping bags of A4 magazines



Davina Brown

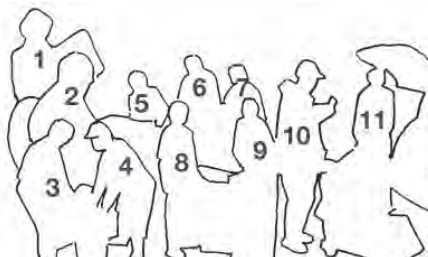
from Broad Street and the Strynd and then wait in the queue at the Post Office counter to post them. It is right to say that Davina has done a mammoth job for OFHS as she has cheerfully posted all the packages almost weekly for many years without complaint. When we first moved to the library a car had to be used to transport the quarterly mailing and the Post Office's contribution at that time was a number of strong plastic bags. Many

volunteers – too many to mention

– have helped in the dispatch of the magazines in the past but it is only right to mention the late Tom Stout. Along with his wife Isobel he was always agreeable to come in and help package and sort the magazines. They were always punctual and polite. To assist them in their research they had both taken up computing in their retirement. Thanks to modern technology the work load of those who post our magazines should not get much heavier. Many of the members have agreed to accept their Sib Folk News magazines on line and as time goes on more will follow suit. It has become a popular publication for genealogists and Orcadians every where and should continue given the support of all the members of the society. ■



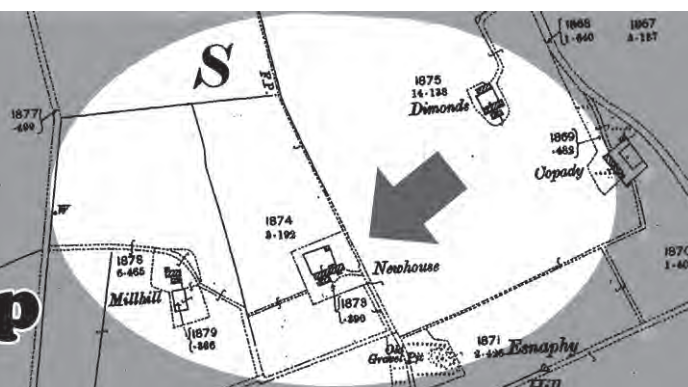
Tom Stout



- 1 Nan Scott.
- 2,3,11 George Gray.
- 4,6,10 Tommy Tulloch.
- 5 Morag Sinclair.
- 7 Isobel Stout.
- 9 Tom King.



Sad to say, Little Duncans in Deerness, is no longer on the map



A 'Tumbledown' tale from Mabel Eunson. Member No 123

My Tumbledown this time has really tumbled, or rather been taken down and unfortunately no photo can be found of it. Little Duncans stood on the high ground between Diamonds, Cupady and Millhill (*Sib News* March 2012 Tumbledown) and was called Newhouse on a map of 1881. Back in the 1940s I can

remember four walls standing but the thatched roof had fallen in. The house was occupied until 1908 when the last residents left for a life in New Zealand. Nothing of the old house remains and I thought that something about it should be recorded in *Sib Folk News* before the memories too disappear forever.

Residents of Little Duncans	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	
Peter McLellan, Tailor	32	43	52	61	-	-	Born in Edinburgh
Jane McLellan (nee Vedder), (wife)	33	43	52	62	-	-	
Peter McLellan (son)	10	-	-	-	-	-	Emigrated to USA
Robert McLellan (son)	6	16	-	-	-	-	Emigrated to USA, died age 29
Jane McLellan (daughter)	4	14	-	-	-	-	Emigrated to USA
Betsy McLellan (daughter)	1	11	-	-	-	-	
Margaret McLellan (daughter)	-	8	-	-	-	-	Died 9/10/1873 aged 20
William McLellan (son)	-	5	15	-	-	-	To USA and N.Z.
Mary McLellan (daughter)	-	2	12	21	30	41	Died 20/6/1902 aged 42
William Hourie, Shoemaker	-	-	-	-	46	56	Born in Rendall
Betsy McLellan (wife)	-	-	-	-	41	51	
Robert Hourie (son)	-	-	-	-	-	-	Died 12/1/1881 aged 9
William Hourie (son)	-	-	-	-	17	-	Died 13/5/1899 aged 25
Maggie Jane Hourie (daughter)	-	-	-	6	16	-	
Mary Hourie (daughter)	-	-	-	-	13	-	
Annie Hourie (daughter)	-	-	-	-	11	-	
Elizabeth Hourie (daughter)	-	-	-	-	9	-	Died 12/5/1897 age 15
Jemima Hourie (daughter)	-	-	-	-	7	17	Born in Firth
George Hourie (son)	-	-	-	-	-	9	
Mary Ann Muir (g/d)	-	-	-	-	-	7	Died 3/6/1902 aged 8

The Residents of Little Duncans

In 1841, **Peter McLellan** and **Jane McLellan** (nee **Vedder**) and son Peter, 5 months old were living at Malesburgh, a Vedder house, so presumably built the New House which is called *Little Duncans* in the Census Returns.

The **Hourie** family were at *Moan*, in Firth in 1881, except for **Maggie Jane** (Margaret) who was in Deerness with her grandparents. **William McLellan**, at the age of 16 went to join his brothers **Peter** and **Robert** and sister **Jane** (**Mrs George Wards**) in Rhode Island USA. There he worked as a tailor for some years before returning briefly to Deerness

about 1884. There he had a gravestone erected to his brother **Robert** and sister **Margaret** before setting out for New Zealand. There he farmed, was twice married, and through time had a family of nine.

William came home on a visit in 1906 and when he returned to New Zealand he took his niece, **Annie Hourie**, with him.

Meantime, Maggie Jane Hourie had married a Sanday man, **John Muir**, and they had gone south to work leaving their daughter **Mary Ann Muir** behind at *Little Duncans* with her great aunt **Mary McLellan**.



◀The Hourie Family at Little Duncans about 1898
Back L to R :- William, Mary, Annie. Seated:-
Jemima, Betsy, George, William and Maggie Jane
(who was married to John Muir).

Hourie/Muir family in New Zealand ▶

Standing L to R:- William, John and James Muir.

Seated L to R:- Mary, Annie, m George, Betsy and Jemima Hourie.

James Muir contacted TB in N.Z. and died in 1920.



Both died in the same month in June 1902.

But that was not the end of this sad story. When **John Muir** died in hospital in Falkirk in July 1904 at the age of 45, **Maggie Jane** and their sons came home to Little Duncans.

Within 6 months she too was dead leaving the three orphaned boys, **John** 10, **William** 8, and **James** 6, in the care of their grandparents.

When **William Hourie** died in 1907 this left only his widow Betsy and the three Muir boys at *Little Duncans* as **Mary** and **Jemima Muir** were now working as housemaids in Edinburgh.

William Muir had a leg amputated on account of TB in the bone. **Willie Scott** remembered walking along with him to Deerness School and that **William**, on his crutches, could easily pass all the others.

So **William** returned once more to Britain in 1908, gathered up the remainder of his family in Orkney and Edinburgh and brought them to a new life in New Zealand.

It was a hard move for 60 year old **Betsy** and while she adjusted to the new life she always longed for news of her former neighbours in Deerness. **Annie** and **Jemima** found work in Dunedin and both married and raised families. **Mary**, however, stayed with her mother on the small croft and mothered her nephews. She was a dressmaker and kept the family in clothes. **George Hourie**, who was her brother, joined the family somewhat later.

It is not surprising that the house of **Little Duncans**, that had seen so much sorrow and disease, remained empty ever afterwards. soon became roofless, and when the croft was acquired by

Stoves of Little Millhouse, the stones were used in field drains. **William McLellan** had had the fore-sight to realise that emigration was to be the only means of saving the lives of his relatives in Orkney. I'm told that at Easter 2003 about fifty McLellan/Hourie/Muir relatives had a get-together in Southland, New Zealand. ■

Much of my information has been gleaned from letters written by the Hourie women to a former neighbour, Jeannie Irvine of Cupady in Deerness and from some descendants who have visited Orkney.

I am grateful to Peter Robson, a grandson of Willie McLellan, for the use of the photographs in the article.

*Mabel Eunson,
Member No 123.*



*Willie McLellan and his second wife
Helen Glendinning*



As this year marks the 100th anniversary of World War 1 we are hoping to mark the occasion in our September issue of Sib Folk News.

This would be a great opportunity to get your family's story into print for future generations.

Orcadians played a significant part in World War 1 so if you have any photographs, mementoes or stories of a family member who was caught up in the conflict it would be a privilege to include them in, what I hope will be, a Centenary themed edition of the newsletter.

So many of these stories have disappeared as the years roll by. Don't let yours suffer a similar fate. Editor.

Here is what to do

Stories should be on a Word doc, or if this is not possible they can be written or typed.

A page would need about 800 words and this allows for a suitable graphic heading. Second and subsequent pages would each need to be about 1300 to 1400 words. Your story can be short or long. Photographs should be scanned as 'good quality' (or whatever term your scanner uses) and supplied as jpgs, or I can scan these for you.

Send everything as email attachments to johnsin@gotadsl.co.uk to reach me by the 12th of Aug. You can also deliver to the OFHS office marked for my attention, or mail to me, John Sinclair, 21 Burnside, Kirkwall KW15 1TF.

CORRECTION

Well members you would not have been able to email Elwyn about her g/grandfather Alexander Bichan (Sib News No 69 page 6) as I missed out the '1' in her email address.

If you have any information for her please email it to: ehunt1@vtown.com.au



LANARKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY FAIR In Motherwell Civic Centre

Saturday 23rd August 2014
9.30am - 4.30pm

For more info visit: www.lfhsshow2014.weebly.com



Brian wonders if they could be Orcadians?

One of our long standing members, Brian Tulloch, No 126, found this photograph in his late father's collection. He was a William Tulloch who lived all his life in Sanday.

Most of the photographs were of 1920—1930 vintage but this one appears to be more recent than that.

This one has always been a mystery and Brian is hoping that one of his fellow members can come up with the answer. You can contact Brian at bwt design@yahoo.co.uk

Did the Sutherland boys leave Orkney in a Gravesend fishing smack?

By Stanley Sutherland, Member No. 225

For many years I had been researching my Sutherland ancestors back to around 1790 blissfully thinking that they had Gravesend printed all the way through them.

Imagine my surprise when I found that the name was an import from Bonnie Scotland, or more correctly from Orkney, for they really don't consider themselves Scottish, thanks to their Viking Heritage and the dubious machinations of James III and the Norwegian dowry.



There it was, before my very eyes, evidence that the name had been introduced into my neck of the woods by two young fishermen from Orkney — **William Sutherland**, born in

1771 and baptised in Flotta and **Robert Sutherland**, born in 1779 and baptised in Walls Orkney. Both areas are located to the south of the island of Hoy and situated quite close to each other.

Well now the bit was between my teeth and before I knew it I was Orkney bound, soon finding myself 800 miles from home, seated in the comfortable surroundings of the Kirkwall Library and Archive which is also the home of the Orkney Family History Society.

Help was at hand and I was pointed in the direction of Mr Omand's Diary and there I found the connection between Orkney and Gravesend. It seems that Mr Omand had made a business journey to Liverpool from St Margaret's Hope in Orkney on a Gravesend fishing smack. These vessels evidently made a twice monthly visit to Orkney in the summer months to purchase lobsters for the London market.

I kept digging away and found that there were two fishing companies operating 'welled fishing smacks' (to keep the catch alive) to and from Orkney at that time: **The Northumberland Fishing Society** and **A. Selby & Company London**.

Despite extensive searches I can find out nothing about these companies.

I have found, however, that the two young Sutherlands were in their teens when they arrived in Gravesend and are listed in the 1851 census as 'fishermen from Orkney' and that they married two sisters local to the area.

William married **Mary Harrison** at Swanscombe on

the 9th October 1793, and that their son **William John** was baptised at St George's Church, Gravesend on the 25 January 1801.

Robert's marriage to **Susanna Harrison** took place in the same church on the 4th June, 1799.

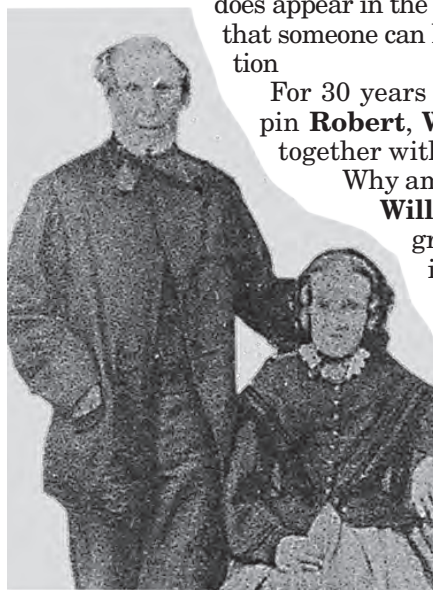
Their first child **Elias Lacy Sutherland** was born about 1800. More about him later.

Coming along nicely I thought, but pride goes etc and the brick wall was in sight.

Round about this time a young girl from Scotland, **Francis Sutherland** (yes with an i) enters the picture. I managed to find her in a later census where she is listed as an aunt to one of **Robert's** children.

I cannot discover her relationship to either **Robert** or **William**. Even more confusing is finding out that she is buried in the same grave as **Robert** and **William** in Gravesend Cemetery. The gravestone only records names and not relationships. I also have a problem with **William's** parentage as on the certificate for his second marriage in 1838 his father is shown as **John** – but I can find no record that shows a **John** having a son baptised in 1771 – but there is a **James Sutherland** and **Ann Peebles** having a **William** baptised on 12th March 1771 in Flotta and I feel fairly certain that this is my **William**.

I have also been unable to trace a marriage for **James Sutherland** and **Ann Peebles**, which may give me some clues as to the real identity of **James**. The name of **Peebles** does appear in the islands, so I am hoping that someone can help with this information.



Elias Lacy Sutherland Snr and Jane Elkin

For 30 years I have been trying to pin **Robert**, **William** and **Francis** together without success.

Why am I so interested? Well, **William** is my 3 times great grandfather and it is so frustrating not to be able to tie-up the loose ends.

And now we turn to the Australian connection which began when **Elias Lacy Sutherland**, the son of **Robert** and **Susanna**, eventually emigrated from Britain. ▶

◀I've hit another brick wall with his early life—not even a baptism record has been found. The first documentary evidence I could find was a record of his marriage to **Jane Elkin** in St Margarets Church in Ifield on the 18th June 1821. They had two children born in Gravesend; **Elias Lacy** (yes, another one) born in 1822 and **Susanna** born in 1832.

I have searched the census records for **Elias** and eventually found him listed in the 1841 census as a schoolmaster teaching at the Academy in Gravesend.

While searching through trade directories for that era I was surprised to find that in 1847 **Elias** had evidently given up teaching and was now a baker at 66 New Road, Gravesend.

Alas, alas, in just 3 years poor **Elias** had run out of dough (couldn't resist it) and had financial problems that landed him in the Whitecross Prison in Newgate.



Whitecross Prison. Newgate

The sentence must

have been merciful, for he appeared in the 1851 census with an occupation of 'Baker employs 1 man'.

Elias must have lost heart in the baking in Britain for Australia beckoned. He was probably fortunate not to have had his fare paid by the British Government who were still sending convicts there, until 1868, often for trifling offences.

This was the start of a Sutherland exodus to Australia.

In July 1852, **Elias**, his brother **Charles** and **Charles's** 6 year old son **Robert**, boarded the 'City of Poonah' Bound for Melbourne.

Elias Jnr (b.1822), married **Elizabeth Mary** (nee Harris) and their first child was baptised on the 11th April 1852, about 10 weeks before **Elias snr** left for Melbourne.

It was ten years before **Elias Snr's** wife was to join him and it was not until May 1862 that she landed in Melbourne with their daughter **Susanna**.

Two months later **Charles's** two daughters **Sarah Dundas** and **Mary Ann Stuart** arrived in Melbourne with the third daughter **Jane Tonge** arriving in December 1865.

This left only **Elias Jnr** and his wife **Elizabeth Mary** and daughter **Elizabeth Ann** in Britain and in mid 1870 they too departed for Australia.

Elias fared well in Australia soon going into business for himself in Wedderburn, Victoria. The opening of his store coincided with the discovery of gold in the area and **Elias** stocked the goods and equipment that would satisfy the needs of the gold miners.

He was regarded as a pillar of the community and played an important role in the life of the Wedder-

burn. In 1868 he became a lay reader in the Holy Trinity Church—a position that he held for 10 years.

A eucalyptus tree stands across the street from the location of **Elias's** old store in Wedderburn.

It has sheltered the men and wagons who sat in its shade while visiting the store. Ab-origines have camped and held their tribal dances under it and it was under its branches that **Elias** used to preach the word of God.

In recognition of its significance the local historical society affixed a plaque—'Sutherlands Tree'—A living memory to a good and kindly man'.



Elias's wife Jane died in 1873, aged 73, and his daughter **Susanna Jane** died unmarried in 1885 at the age of 53 years. His son **Elias** was a businessman in Wedderburn who "made many friends being of a jovial disposition". He had one daughter, **Elizabeth Ann**, who married **John Burge**. Their family consisted of three daughters—**Sarah Elizabeth** (Mrs Probyn), **Mary** (Mrs Gregson), **Roberta Silma** (Mrs Holmes) and one son named **William Lacy**.

When **William** married **Margaret Winter**, he lived first in the cottage built by his grandfather, **Elias Jnr**, and later in the shop and attached dwelling. **William Burge** demolished the old building and built a new home on the site. This house is still standing.

Elias Snr died at Wedderburn aged 87 years on 7th May 1887.

Brother **Charles** became storekeeper at Eaglehawk 70km south of Wedderburn. He died in 1895 aged 77.

So there it is—my tale is told—almost everything that I have painstakingly uncovered in 30 years of research.

I am hoping that this article will catch the eye of an Orcadian or

Australian Sutherland or indeed of any member who can fill in the gaps, of which there are still many.

You can reach me at: stan-joan@sutherland.net and I will be, as they say, 'over the moon' if I hear from you. ■



Elias Snr, Jane & Susanna's tombstone



Neil Thomas has something to add to his article in Sib News no. 69, pages 18 & 19

After sending off my article for Sib Folk News, I had found from ScotlandsPeople the death dates for the parents of the pioneers – Hugh (a weaver) died in 1845 and Alison in 1856 (she died in Albert Street where she was living with her unmarried daughter Jean). Her death certificate gives her burial place as St Magnus Burial Ground, so I guess Hugh is there too. We will certainly look for any signs of a gravestone, though it's likely there won't be one. I am grateful to Edwin Rendall for sending me a tree going back a generation before Hugh, with his parents' names as James and Jean Rendall. ScotlandsPeople had his baptism date in 1782 in Evie & Rendall parish, with Jean's surname also Rendall. Edwin also mentioned that Alison Kerr was from Corstorphine in Edinburgh. ScotlandsPeople had her baptism in 1777, with parents' names (which I already knew) as David Kerr and Jean Thomson. The only church in Corstorphine likely to have been the place where she was baptised (that I can make out) is Corstorphine Old Parish Church, very, very old and which has an excellent website. We are staying in South Queensferry adjacent to Edinburgh before we leave to come back home, so it's not far from our hotel (the Hawes Inn, where R.L. Stevenson wrote some of Kidnapped, and which he mentions in his novel). We will check out as much as we can and may be able to add to this information in due course.

More Bews News

Thanks to **Robert Whitton**, Member No 218, and a day of poor weather in Edinburgh, some of our Bews members might be able to add another name to their family trees. n

So here is the latest 'Bews News' from Robert:-

*Whilst searching for a totally different family I noticed in 1911 census an Individual called **Isabel Beale** aged 46 born in Kirkwall along with her son **Mervyn Beale** aged 16 born in Cherat, Bengal.. Her husband was not present and they were recorded as being resident in the Barracks, Fullwood, Preston.*

As it was another delightful Scottish Spring day with high winds and horizontal rain I decided to spend some time working out who Isabel was. Perhaps she will fit into someone's Family Tree.

*Her husband was **William Beale** aged 27 a Schoolmaster and they were married 11th October 1888 at 204 West Regent Street, Glasgow. Her parents were recorded as **William Traill Bews** a deceased Produce Merchant and her mother was **Jessie Anderson** who were married in Edinburgh on 10th February 1852. The witnesses were **Gertie** (her sister, **Gertrude** born 1870 Glasgow) and **Graham Bews**. **William Beale** was born in Kent, his father was **Thomas Beale** a Schoolmaster and his mother was called **Jane Griffith? Isabella Thomson Bews** was born in Bridge Street, Kirkwall 17th January 1861 and her father is recorded as a Commission Agent (Glasgow) so perhaps her mother travelled home for the birth.*

*The record of **William Traill Bews** death on 12th February 1869 at 14 St Georges Street, Glasgow confirms that he was a Commission Merchant and that his parents were **David Bews** a Master Mariner and **Barbara Beaton**. At the 1881 census **Jessie, Isabella** and **Gertrude Bews** were at 262 Bath Street, Glasgow.*

*I located Isabel's husband in the 1911 census and he is recorded as an Officer, Corps of Army Schoolmasters in Preston. The family was most likely in India at the 1890 census and they are in the 1901 census at 38/68 **Regimental Barracks, Lichfield, along with her mother Jessie Bews a widow aged 66.***

***William Beale** address 4 Tolsey Drive, Hutton near Preston died 4th January 1926 and his wife **Isabella Thomson Beale** nee **Bews** died 20th February 1956 at The Oakes, Hill Road, Penwortham near Preston. Their son **Mervyn William Beale** who was born 9th July 1894 in Cherat, Bengal and christened 12th August died 1980 at Preston married a **Mary E Pyke** in Preston in 1924. They had 1 child **Malcolm A Beale** born 24th December 1925 in Preston, Lancashire who married an **Edith Harvey** in 1951. Malcolm died around 2011 in Penwortham, Lancashire.* ■

If Robert's research has helped you, Please let us know.

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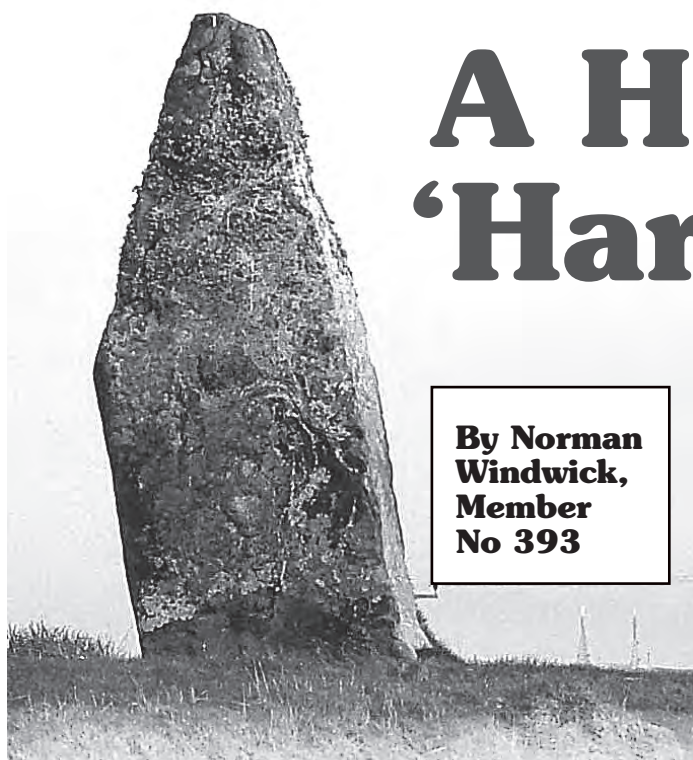
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**By Norman
Windwick,
Member
No 393**

On the top of Stoneyhill in the toonship of Grimeston stands a lone sentinel in the shape of a stone eight feet tall and two feet wide. Known as the "Hinatuin Stone" it is placed on top of a stony ridge and surveys the whole of the parish of Harray. Here as small boys we fought many a make believe battle. Just over the hill behind the stone, on the road to Fursbreck, is situated what used to be a manse and the old Congregational church now converted into modern dwellings. It was in this former manse now known as Kenwood I was born on the 12th August 1941.

I wasn't very old when I first became conscious of references made to our parish epithet. I asked my grandmother why we were called "Harray Crabs". She explained that of the thirty two parishes that formed the Orkney Isles Harray was the only one that did not touch the sea. For a long time I wrestled with the logic or lack of logic in this explanation. Had I been referred to as a "Harray Rabbit", "Harray Hedgehog" or even "Harray Snail" I am sure there would have been an inevitable acceptance. But "Harray Crab"! When we are now where near the sea?

Time passes and priorities change and my preoccupation with parish tradition faded in favour of other interests like fishing, cars, dances and girls. Not necessarily in that order. It was to be some years later that I was given the present of a small green book written by John T Firth entitled "HARRAY Orkney's Inland Parish". John T was a passionate Harray man and, disappointed at the way old parish names and traditions were being lost, he set about recording as many as he could. One story he relates I found is presented in various forms and supported by Goodfellow who in turn quotes from the folklore of George Marwick of Sandwick.

Apparently in the 12th century when they finished building the original structure of St. Magnus Cathedral it came time to move the remains of the Saint from the church in Birsay to their final resting place in Kirk-

wall. This would require an arduous journey overland involving several parishes on the way. The plan required a chosen team of Birsay men to carry the casket to a handover point in Harray where the Harray men would then carry it on into Stenness and the Stenness men on to Orphir etc. until the procession finally reached St. Magnus Cathedral. The point chosen for the handover in Harray was the standing stone on the top of Stoneyhill. Wherever they stopped to rest and the casket touched the ground that piece of terrain would be deemed hallowed ground.

The Birsay squad which left on this momentous expedition was to be led by a rather intimidating overseer or ganger called Dick Hervey who not only enjoyed his authority but was also fond of a drop or two of ale. I do not know all the resting places the Birsay men took advantage of but one spot to be raised to hallowed ground was Conyer in Russland. Here they rested overnight and prepared for the final leg to the top of Stoneyhill where the standing stone was surrounded by a small village of primitive huts constructed from divots, branches and animal hides. As they climbed the last hill in the glow of the rising sun Dick Hervey was wallowing in loud vocal outbursts brought on by elation and warm ale.

Arrival at the standing stone was met by complete silence. Nothing stirred as the village appeared deserted. The overseer exploded in a tumult that was heard for miles. He had expected an enthusiastic welcome with handshakes and slaps on the back and congratulations on accomplishing such a noble task. As he ranted and raved heads began to appear at the doors of the failly huts puzzled by all the hullabaloo. Slowly people emerged as Dick Hervey boiled over and shouted the Harray men were so lazy in the morning they came out of their huts like crabs crawling out of the ebb. His upbraiding became so offensive that even his own crew could not tolerate him so he was sacked and sent back to Birsay on his own.

Do I prefer this version of why I'm a "Harray Crab"? I must admit it cheers me but is it fact or folklore? Was that cleft in the ground beside the standing stone, where as a small boy I held off so many marauding Indians really hallowed ground? Did the Birsay overseer get sent back in humiliation? Was Dick Hervey the first to dub us "Harray Crabs"? The historians will tell you the answer lies in the Hinatuin Stone. They say if you look up a dictionary of old Norse you will find "Hina" means to go back and "Tuin" means shame.

Norman Windwick. No393.





By Peter Longstaff, Member No 2513

IN SEARCH OF OMAN – From Caithness To Calcutta And Back

I was prompted to write this piece as a result of reading an article in the Caithness Family History Society Journal concerning emigration from Caithness to Patagonia, and noticing that amongst the family names mentioned was OMAN. So far I am unable to trace any ancestors, Oman or otherwise, who went to Patagonia but, since I started my family history research I have been surprised at some of the information that I have uncovered. Initially I expected my ancestors to have led fairly mundane lives and for the most part I was not disappointed. There was one lady whose occupation the 1841 census recorded somewhat dismissively as ‘works in fields’, although the fact that she had had an illegitimate child with an unnamed father well before her eventual marriage might suggest that there were more activities taking place in Yorkshire fields than just work. There was also the occasional tragedy, such as the ancestor who, probably through desperation at trying to cope with his family’s chronic poverty and save the lives, unsuccessfully as it turned out, of his two dying children, stole a pig trough; he was rewarded with three months hard labour in Bedford Gaol for his efforts. Life was certainly hard for some of my ancestors in pre-Victorian times. There was no indication throughout all of this research that any of my ancestors were anything other than English people who had stayed in England. That was until I came across the name Oman in my ancestry. From that point on a story unfolded which reads like the synopsis of a Jeffrey Archer novel, except that probably even he could not have invented such a complex tale with so many twists, but it is wholly true. Also I discovered I had some Scots blood in my veins.

My great grandfather was John EVANS, a respectable (?) London solicitor with a commer-



groom had declared his status as ‘widower’, not otherwise surprising.

Alice’s grandfather was Charles OMAN, a vintner and hotel keeper in Edinburgh. He had married twice, the first time in 1790 to Jean (or Janet) COCHRANE by whom he had six children. Two of these were daughters named Barbara Blackwell OMAN and Catherine Sinclair OMAN. Remember these names because they will re-appear much later in this story. Jean probably died, for in 1807 Charles married Grace (or Grizzle) BURN, daughter of a merchant from Aberlady, East Lothian. Charles and Grace had four further children, one of whom died shortly after birth. Of the other three, one was a son and baptised George. Charles was successful in his trade. By 1822 he appears in the Post Office Guide as keeper of the brand new Waterloo Hotel at Regent’s Bridge between Calton Hill and Princes Street. A contemporary guidebook described it as ‘the largest and most splendid establishment of the kind in Edinburgh’ having ‘a coffee room 80 feet by 40 and a dining room of equal dimensions’. Commensurate with his status, in 1818 Charles purchased 6 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. This house is now better known, or should be to all Scots, as the official residence of the First Minister. It would be churlish to ask for the return of the house and we certainly could not afford to buy it at today’s prices anyway, but it would

be nice if one day the First Minister permitted a visit to let us look round our old family home. Charles died in 1825 and his widow, Grace, continued to live in the house and run it as a hotel until it was sold in 1841 by her son George, who had inherited the property on his father’s death. By that time George was in India. Grace died in 1844.

George Burn OMAN was born in Edinburgh in 1811. In 1830 he qualified as a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh which, although not a full fellowship, qualified him to practise. Whether there was any familial connection with the Royal Navy is not known but it may be relevant that buried in the churchyard at Aberlady is a Peter BURN who was a Commander in the Royal Navy; this may have been a relative of his mother. Whatever the persuasion that led him to enlist, by 1836 he had been appointed an assistant surgeon at a Royal Naval hospital and in 1837 was appointed additional assistant surgeon on H.M.S Wellesley, a post in which he continued for the next three years. This ship was the flag-ship of the East Indies fleet and probably based in Calcutta, Bengal. Whether he was disappointed at the lack of promotion to a full surgeon or whether he was simply restless or saw the opportunity for more remunerative activities is not known but by 1841 he had resigned from the Royal Navy. He next appears listed in the 1843 edition of the Bengal Directory and Register as assistant to a Mr. Charles OMAN, an indigo planter at Morral, Jessore, the latter a town then in east Bengal and now in Bangladesh. Indigo production was a newly developing industry but with a poor reputation for the treatment of its native employees. By the time of publication of the Directory for 1847 the reference to assistant had been dropped and George is shown located at Mudenderry where there was a factory in which Charles Oman also had an interest.

George continued to be listed in the Bengal Directory until the 1854 edition. Clearly in those days news of what was happening in the Bengal provinces reached Calcutta slowly, for in December 1849 he had embarked at Calcutta on the sailing ship Ellenborough bound for London via the Cape of Good Hope. By that time a new shorter and faster route was being developed between India and Britain via Suez and Alexandria involving, in the absence

of the Suez Canal, a short overland journey between the two intermediate ports. On this route the steamship had made an appearance, but George did not use it. The purpose of his return to Britain is unknown. It may have been his intention not to return to the indigo trade for he had reverted to using his medical qualification and appears on the ship’s passenger list as ‘Doctor George Oman’. Also he may have decided to seek a wife. If that was his intention he did not need to look far. In November 1850, less than a year after leaving India on the long voyage home, he married the girl next door, Eliza Jane LAMB. The ceremony took place at Trinity Church, Paddington, London, and the bridegroom gave his occupation as ‘surgeon’. At the time George was aged 39, his bride was 17.

George may well have known the LAMB family in India for they had been in Calcutta; Eliza Jane had been born there and her parents had been married there. Eliza’s parents were James LAMB and Eliza Ann HOLWAY. Nothing is known about the origin of James except that the 1851 English census records that he was born in Scotland. There is even confusion as to his age since, according to the same census he was 46, which would put his year of birth at around 1805, whilst his burial record ten years later in 1861 gives his age as 65. Unfortunately James Lamb was not an uncommon name in Scotland, nor was it in India at that time, which has made tracing him almost impossible.

Rather more is known about Eliza Ann HOLWAY. She was born in Madeira of English parents in 1812. Her parents were John Hollingworth HOLWAY and his wife Eliza; one legend in the Holway family is that the pair eloped to Madeira, the lady being already married to another. No marriage record has so far been found for John and Eliza, either in London or in Madeira, but many Madeira records were destroyed in a fire at the British Consulate some years ago and one source refers to a record of them marrying in Madeira in 1811. The Holways were one of a few prominent English families on the island, owning boarding houses and farms (or quintas), the latter in many cases growing grapes for wine production. Madeira was becoming an important source of wine for British colonies; it lay on most shipping routes, including that to India via the Cape, and Funchal was a re-victualling port, so many British ships called there. Two other prominent families were the Reids, after whom the luxury hotel founded by them is still named, and the Blandys, who founded the company which is still the major producer of Madeira wine and who were the sponsors at the baptism of one of the Holway’s children. John Holway also regularly played Henry Veitch (later Viscount Veitch), the British consul, at billiards and card games and, by all accounts, usually won at the latter, resulting in Veitch owing him a large sum of money. All except one of the Holway chil-

dren eventually departed the island and the Quinta Holway was sold to the Archduchess Elisabeth of Austria for use as a holiday home, being renamed the Quinta Elisabeth. One son went to India becoming an indigo planter. Whatever their marital status, John and Eliza Holway, my four times great grandparents, now rest in peace side by side in the English Cemetery in Funchal.

Eliza Ann HOLWAY, the eldest, appears to have been the first of the children to leave the island. Matrimonial prospects in Madeira for a young lady of quality were likely to have been extremely limited at that time. What led Eliza Ann to India is not known. If James LAMB sailed to India on a ship which called at Funchal, as was likely, they may have met in Madeira. Alternatively it was not uncommon in those days for young ladies with contacts in India to travel there in search of a suitable spouse amongst the many young bachelors in the Indian Army and East India Company administration. Eliza’s father may have had such contacts through the wine trade. What is known is that at the age of 18, alone and unchaperoned, Eliza embarked on the ship Coromandel bound for Calcutta, arriving there in November 1830. If it was a husband that she was seeking she got her man. Thirteen months after her arrival Eliza and James were married at St. Andrew’s, the Church of Scotland church at Calcutta. Inside the church is a large wooden panel displaying the names of the ministers who have officiated there since the church’s foundation in 1818. Amongst them is the name of James Bryce, the minister who married my three times great grandparents.

James LAMB arrived in Calcutta sometime prior to 1830 for he is first recorded in the East India Directory and Register for that year. The records are slightly confusing because there was already another James Lamb in Calcutta who had been there for many years. James was employed by the trading and auctioneering firm of Mackenzie & Co. This later became Mackenzie, Lyall & Co. when James Lyall became a partner. The firm was a very prominent one in Calcutta and highly regarded; in later years it was to hold the government monopoly for the opium trade in Bengal at a time when opium was a legal substance but under government control. Around 1836 Lyall sold his interest in the firm to James Lamb and E. Whyte who, in purchasing it, became partners. This gave rise to an interesting case in the Calcutta High Court concerning a debt, Lyall’s will and his subse-



quent death. Lyall had made a will in Calcutta then boarded a ship for England. On the voyage home he died, which event would have expunged the debt. The plaintiffs claimed that Lyall had altered his will on the ship to revive the debt and that Lamb and Whyte were liable; however the plaintiffs were unable to substantiate this claim and the action was dismissed. Eliza Jane LAMB was the eldest daughter of James and Eliza Ann, born in 1833. Her birth was followed by that of two more daughters before the family left Calcutta for England. This must have been around 1837, for James ceased to be listed in the East India Register and Directory after that year and it was also the year in which they last had a child born in India. By the time of Eliza Jane’s marriage the LAMB family were living at 103 Gloucester Terrace, Paddington. George Burn OMAN, when he returned to England, went to live at 102.

The first child of George and Eliza Jane died shortly after birth in September 1851. Their second child was born in 1853 and baptised Alice Jane OMAN at Paddington. On Alice’s birth certificate her father’s occupation is recorded as ‘surgeon late of the Royal Navy’. The family then decided to return to India. The Bengal Directory and Annual Register of 1855 records the arrival at Calcutta in June 1854 on the steamship Bengal from Suez of Mr and Mrs Oman accompanied by an infant and servant. By this time Eliza Jane was pregnant with her third child. A son, baptised Charles George at St. John’s Church, Calcutta, was born in November 1854. George Burn OMAN found employment with the firm of Bathgate & Co., surgeons, druggists and manufacturing chemists, at their address in Park Street, Calcutta. He was not to be employed there for long. In September 1855, fifteen months after returning to India, he died, the cause of death being unrecorded. He was laid to rest in the General Episcopal Burial Ground at Chowringhee; six years later he was joined there by his father-in-law, James LAMB, who died of consumption while presumably visiting Calcutta on business. A search has failed to reveal either grave. The burial ground is now in a very dilapidated condition, with many headstones broken and missing, and the deeper recesses of it inhabited by homeless native families. For George’s family his death may have been a blessing in disguise. Eliza Jane, now a widow aged 22 accompanied by her two very young children, returned to London thereby avoiding the tragic violence of the Indian Mutiny of 1857, enshrined in the legend of the Black Hole of Calcutta. Fate then dealt a strange hand. Eliza Jane OMAN (nee LAMB) met and married a respectable(?) solicitor and widower by the name of John EVANS. The reason for the difference in age between John and his final wife then became clear. Alice Jane OMAN not only became his wife; she was also his stepdaughter. To say that this caused

◀ surprise would be an understatement. There was a lot more about my great grandfather still to be discovered.

John EVANS was born at Witham, Essex in 1823. The surname suggests Welsh origin but it is more likely a corruption or misspelling of the name EVANCE which was fairly common in north Essex. His father, William, was a farmer and ostler but it has been impossible to trace what happened to him. In the 1841 census the whole family, excluding the father, was living at Witham Place, the home of attorney at law and bachelor John Cutts who was employing John's mother, Mary, as housekeeper and John and his brother as clerks in his practice. It is presumably from Cutts that John EVANS received his legal training. By 1848 John was living in London and in December of that year married; his bride was Elizabeth MULLEN who was about 22 years of age. The ceremony, carried out by licence at the church of St. Olave's Jewry in the City of London, seems to have been a slightly strange affair. The witnesses were the bride's father and sister but the marriage certificate also records the presence of a third witness, a solicitor. Which party the solicitor was representing is not stated. It is possible that the marriage was entered into in order to avoid a breach of promise action and the solicitor was present to confirm that any promise made had been honoured. If the MULLEN family had put pressure on EVANS to enter into the marriage then they may have lived to regret it. Eight months earlier another woman, Jane Catherine GAMON had given birth to John EVANS's child.

On the night of the 1851 census John EVANS was not at home. He was at the home of his mistress, Jane GAMON who by this time had given birth to a second child fathered by him. There he was recorded as 'head' of the household, occupation 'solicitor', born Witham, Essex, about 1823. Jane went on to give birth to three more of John's children, the total of five spanning the years 1848 to 1855. On the night of the 1861 census John EVANS was recorded at home. However he was also recorded at the home of his mistress, but not Jane GAMON. This time it was a woman called Frances (Fanny) PHILPOTT. By census date Frances had given birth to four of John EVANS's children, commencing in 1853; she went on to have three more up to 1866. From 1853 John EVANS was the head of, not two, but three households simultaneously, however in May 1858 his first wife, Elizabeth, died childless. Despite being otherwise engaged on the census night of 1851, Elizabeth's husband managed to be present at her death. Now free to marry either of his two mistresses and legitimise some of his, by then, eight children Evans eschewed the opportunity. Instead twelve months later in May 1859 he married Ellen Maria Nicholson SHENTON, the daughter of an artist from Harpenden in Hertfordshire aged about 29. Ellen was to provide John EVANS with his first

legitimate heir, a son born in March 1862; less than three months later she too died. It was to this tangled web of relationships that in January 1863 Eliza Jane OMAN added her name.

His third marriage to Eliza Jane OMAN did not dissuade John EVANS from continuing his relationship with Frances PHILPOTT by whom he had a further two children in 1863 and 1866. Eliza bore him three more children, the first born in December 1863. The marriage was to last for sixteen years then, in January 1879 Eliza also died. John EVANS became a widower for the third time but not for long. With almost indecent haste John and Eliza's daughter were married in May 1879. Marriage to a much younger woman must have re-invigorated the bridegroom for between 1880 and 1890 John was to father a further eight children with Alice. John EVANS died in 1901. His death certificate records the cause as heart failure and old age. Having fathered twenty four children by five different women, only three of them wives, during a period of forty two years (a feat which I have not attempted to emulate), one might be forgiven



for thinking that physical exhaustion might also have played a part. In 1911 Alice Jane EVANS (nee OMAN) was living with one of her sons in Chiswick, west London. I am still searching for the time and place of her death; and there the story might have ended.

No doubt the reader will by now be wondering what the foregoing has to do with Caithness, of which there has not, so far, been a mention. So would I were it not for two further pieces of information. The reader may recall that George Burn OMAN's father was Charles OMAN, the Edinburgh vintner. No birth or baptismal record has been found for Charles so his exact origin and parentage is uncertain, however it is possible to piece together evidence of a close relationship with a Caithness family of several generations. When George left the Royal Navy he went to work for and with an indigo planter, also Charles OMAN by name. Charles OMAN, the indigo planter, was one of three brothers or half brothers, the sons of David OMAN of Caithness by two marriages to, firstly, Elizabeth SWANSON and, secondly, Isobel SUTHERLAND, who went to India, two of the three becoming indigo planters. Charles

OMAN died in India in 1844 and left a will there which includes reference, in addition to close family members, to 'cousin George'. This appears to refer to George Burn OMAN who was the only George OMAN in Bengal at that time. The term cousin is sometimes used in a fairly loose way to encompass close and long established family acquaintances, however there is other, more substantial, evidence to suggest that George was genuinely a cousin of the brothers from Caithness.

In late Victorian times there was an eminent professor of history at the University of Oxford, Sir Charles OMAN by name. Sir Charles was the grandson of Charles OMAN, the indigo planter. In the early 20th century he wrote a book titled 'Memories of Victorian Oxford'. The book includes a few pages devoted to Sir Charles's ancestry and recounts how his father, also rather confusingly called Charles, was born in India but was sent back to Edinburgh, as were most of his father's brothers and sisters, to attend Edinburgh Academy. In Edinburgh the children of Charles the indigo planter were accommodated in the home in Charlotte Street of two ladies who Sir Charles describes as his grandfather's sisters. They were certainly not his sisters for, unlike Charles the indigo planter, they were not daughters of David OMAN. Their names were Mrs Barbara MAPLESON, a widow, and Miss Catherine OMAN and the reader met them at the beginning of this story as the daughters, by his first marriage, of Charles OMAN the vintner. Almost certainly the two ladies were cousins of Charles the indigo planter, also fairly close and well known ones if the latter was prepared to entrust the care and welfare of his children to them six thousand miles away from home. The evidence for Barbara and Catherine being the daughters of Charles the vintner lies with their death certificates on each of which they are recorded as being the daughter of Charles OMAN and Janet COCHRANE.

Sir Charles traces his ancestry back beyond his grandfather. His great grandfather, David OMAN (1763-1838), of Clerdoun (or Clardon – Sir Charles seems unsure which is correct) in Thurso parish, has already been mentioned. On a personal visit to Caithness.ROSS. Parish records show the baptism of two sons, William and David, at Thurso in 1760 and 1763 respectively. So where does this place the birth of Charles OMAN, the vintner, for whom no baptismal record has been found and, if he was born in Caithness as one might suppose, what caused him to move to Edinburgh? Perhaps the most likely explanation is that he was a son of John OMAN, and a brother of David OMAN, for he was probably born around 1760, whose baptism never took place or went unrecorded. As to the Edinburgh connection, there was in Leith in the mid 18th century a married couple ▶

◀ named William OMAN (died 1757) and Margaret OMAN (died 1778), who carried on trade as vintners. Were these related to the OMANS of Clerdoun and did Charles go to Edinburgh to learn the trade from them? Unfortunately It is unlikely we will ever know the answers to these questions.

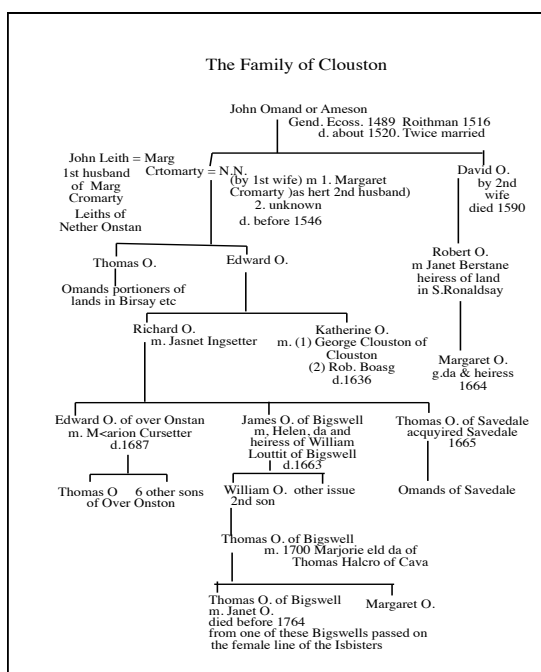
The OMANS of Clerdoun originated not in Caithness but in Orkney. Sir Charles records that his earliest known ancestor in Caithness was Robert OMAN, the father of John OMAN, and one of two brothers, the other Andrew, who lived at Clerdoun, but that this was not the first generation in Caithness. The legend in the family was that the first migrant from Orkney came in



J. Storer Clouston

Orkney, at the time Sir Charles was writing, an authority on Orkney genealogy, named J. Storer Clouston, who wrote a book on his own family history titled 'The Cloustons of Clouston'. Sir Charles corresponded with Clouston in 1911, copies of the former's letters being amongst Clouston family papers in the Kirkwall Archive. Unfortunately the file does not contain a copy of Clouston's replies but it is apparent that Sir Charles was sent a précis of documents relating to the Oman family in Orkney for which he thanked Clouston. Whether these documents were part of Clouston's private papers or were in the public domain is unclear, but Sir Charles wrote to Clouston 'I did not know that they had any papers, or I should have made some effort to get at them,...'. In his own book Clouston wrote 'The exceptionally complete records, for four and a half centuries, of this still existing Stenness family,...' referring to the OMANS. It was hoped that the Kirkwall Archive contained the Oman family records and documents to which the book and correspondence refers, or a copy of the précis, but they were not found.

In his book Clouston included an outline genealogical chart of the OMAN family, which he had traced back to the early 16th century, for at one time the family owned land in Clouston and there was intermarriage between the Omans and



drew on the chart and the précis of the Oman documents in compiling his own narrative. Sir Charles states that he is descended from the OMANDs (spelling varied, A and O being interchangeable for the second vowel, and the D being omitted by some branches of the family in later years) of Stenness but these in turn appear from the chart to be descended from the OMONDs of Bigswell through James OMOND, who died in 1683. Sir Charles then traces back three further generations of Omands, Richard OMAND and two Edward O M A N D s before getting to what he claims as his first traceable ancestor, Thomas O M A N D of Kirbaster (1500-40). Clouston goes one generation further for he claims that Edward OMAND's grandfather, therefore Thomas OMAND's father, was John OMOND.



Gendarmerrie Ecoissais

One of the earliest appearances of John OMOND in the annals of history was in 1469 when he was listed in the muster rolls of the Gendarmerie Ecossais. The Gendarmerie was a personal bodyguard of the King of France, composed of Scots mercenaries, including men from Orkney, founded by Charles VII of France in 1418. They were regarded as an elite troop and Sir Walter Scott immortalised them

in his novel 'Quentin Durward'. Scott portrays Durward as a kind of medieval James Bond, or the Three Musketeers rolled into one, who rescues the King of France (then Louis XI) from attack by a boar, then provides protection and escort to a Burgundian heiress who had taken refuge at the King's court, eventually winning her hand by bringing to the Duke of Burgundy the head of the Duke's enemy. Whether John OMOND lived up to this image we will never know, but perhaps Sir Charles entertained the idea that OMOND was the basis for Scott's hero, for he points out in his book that OMOND and the fictional Durward were contemporary in time. However John OMOND certainly did not marry a Burgundian heiress or I might not now be writing this. John's first wife was Margaret CROMARTY, the mother of his son Thomas. In 1515 John was listed as 'one of the Roithmen on the Lawthing'; he is believed to have died around 1520.

Clouston believed John OMOND to be the earliest traceable ancestor of Sir Charles, and the latter acknowledges that fact in his book; if so he is almost certainly my earliest traceable ancestor as well.

Thus ends my, not quite, everyday family saga of adventure, romance, lust and tragedy. I would like to acknowledge the help of two others in trying to unravel the mysteries of Oman genealogy. Firstly I must thank Krysia Hyde of Fife who very kindly provided me with details from many births, marriages and deaths register entries relating to members of the Oman family but, most particularly, those for Barbara Blackwell Mapleson (nee Oman) and Catherine Sinclair Oman, without which I would not have been able to link the daughters of Charles Oman, the vintner, to Sir Charles's 'great aunts'. Secondly I would like to thank Alastair Omand of the U.S.A. who kindly provided me with details of his own Oman(d) genealogy but, most particularly, a copy of an extract of Sir Charles Oman's book which his father had typed out in Kirkwall Library some thirty years previously; without this I would never have known about the book. If anybody is able fill in any of the gaps in this narrative, particularly the 'missing link' between Orkney and Caithness, or even just to say where Clerdoun can be found, I would be pleased to hear from them at kplongstaff@btinternet.com. Better still if anybody would like to purchase the film rights I would be even more pleased to hear. Failing that I hope that I have provided some entertainment, and encouragement, to those still wrestling with genealogical mysteries, that there may be some information still to be found somewhere, even in north America, Patagonia, India or beyond where past generations of Omans, and other Scots, have sought their fortunes. ■



James (Jim) Pottinger

the grand uncle I wish I had known

By Leslie Foubister, Member No. 61

James (Jim) Pottinger was born at his parents' home, Quoynlanks, Deerness on 21st August 1872 and was the second of three sons born to **James snr.** and **Janet Durran**. There were also four girls in the family including **Barbara** (my grandmother). **Janet Durran** was a native of Caithness having been born in Dunnet in 1834. She had followed her three sisters to Quanterness, St Ola where they at various times acted as housekeepers for their uncle Mr **Tait**. All four sisters eventually married local men. **Elizabeth** married **Thomas Hutchison** from Shapinsay, **Janet** married **James Pottinger** of Quoynlanks Deerness at Quanterness on 29th November 1866, while the other two **Barbara** and **Margaret**, respectively married brothers **John** and **William Moss** from Ockleston, Holm.



Back Row:- L - R Jessie Ann, James, William.

Front Row:- L - R Jane, Agnes, Barbara, John.

The complete family of James and Janet of Quoynlanks, Deerness were: **Barbara** b 1868 married **David Craigie Matches**, Breckan, Deerness — died 14th April 1940 — 6 family. **James** b 1869 — did not marry - died 15th March 1941 — interred St Ninian's Deerness.

John b 1870 — did not marry — died 15th January 1956 — interred St Ninian's Deerness.

James b 1872; bigamous marriage — died in Suffolk 21st December 1946 — interred St Nicholas Church Wrentham Suffolk — no family.

William b 1874 - married **Elizabeth Kirkpatrick**, died Aberdeen 10th January 1949 — interred Ellon cemetery - no family.

Jessie Ann b 1875 — did not marry — died 18th October 1950 — interred St Ninian's Deerness.

Agnes b 1877 - married **James Slater Garrioch** — died 30th November 1956 - interred St Ninian's Deerness.

Jim (1872) attended school in Deerness from May 1878, leaving in July 1887 then returning in November 1887 and finally finishing on 11th May 1888. Those dates appear to coincide with the movements of a number of other pupils. Was this perhaps connect-

ed with harvest work?

Later, after leaving school and in the census of 1891, Jim is found at Newton in Evie aged 17 and listed as a farm servant on his uncle **John Pottinger's** farm. An advert in the *Orcadian* the following year carried the announcement that the farm of Newton extending to 120 'imperial acres' was available for let and that the present tenant Mr Pottinger would not be an offerer but would point out the boundaries.

Family and other sources suggest that Jim had problems keeping his temper under control and a search of the Criminal Diet Book for the Sheriff Court does seem to add weight to this. The entry reads — Assault and Breach of Peace. Kirkwall 28 February 1900 — Presented Complaint. Procurator Fiscal of Orkney against **James Pottinger**, farm servant Quoynlanks, Deerness and **David Johnstone**, fisherman, Mirland Deerness for the crime of assault and Breach of Peace as particularly set forth in said complaint. Warrant to cite.

Kirkwall 6th March 1900 — In foregoing complaint, Procurator Fiscal of Orkney against **James Pottinger** and **David Johnstone**, panels pled not guilty, evidence led, charges found proven and panels fined £1 stg. each or in default 14 days imprisonment. Fines paid.

Following their appearance in court, a report appeared in the *Orkney Herald* dated 7th March 1900:— 'reporting on the incident which had taken place at Musterhall, Deerness on 26th February when it had been alleged that the two miscreants had been involved in an assault on a **John Foubister**, farm servant which had arisen out of a case of "midnight courtship" the Sheriff (**Cosens**) seemingly being devoid of an understanding of prevailing Orcadian customs (and perhaps a sense of humour) said that in his opinion none of the witnesses had told the truth in every respect. He fined accused £1 each, the alternative being 14 days imprisonment. In doing so he said he doubted if he should give them the option of a fine but, as with this exception, they appeared to be respectable young men he would do so. If however any other case of the kind came before him there would be no question of a fine and the disgraceful behaviour of young men in Deerness and other places must, and would be, put down if he had anything to do with it.'

Perhaps it was an example of 'old habits' but in spite of the worthy Sheriff's thoughts on the subject this practice did continue, well into the late 1930's at least, when there was a report in the local paper of a court case where the lady in question attempted to have someone named as the father of her child. The man named had, she claimed, visited her about fifty times over six years and that he 'nearly always got into bed with her'. There had been a time when she was younger that she had locked her door she said but expressed no shame or hesitation in having received callers through her window accessed by means of a farm ladder! Occupiers of Musterhall at this time were the Bichan family who had previously farmed in Copinsay.

There are other examples in later years of Jim's apparent ▶

◀ inability to control his temper. Perhaps this had a bearing on him leaving Orkney later which he appears to have done. His younger brother **William** (Bill) is said to have been working on a farm in the Huntly area, possibly Drumdelgay? Whether or not Jim was also there isn't known but later they did work together at various farms in Aberdeenshire including according to family sources, South Easterton, Hatton Cruden, and finally Upper Arthra, Dudwick where they spent a number of years. In 'A History of Ellon Aberdeenshire ~ a short history of the Tenantry' dated 1916, **James** and **William** are named as joint tenants at Upper Arthra farming 150 acres. It has been said that no woman was safe from the brothers, rather ironic perhaps in view of what was to later happen.

The Orcadian dated March 14 1928 carries a reference to the brothers farm of Arthra, and was headed 'Orcadian Farmers in the South' and read 'Mr **Arthra**, Dudwick, Aberdeenshire (of Messrs. J & W Pottinger) has taken a lease of Wester Deans in the county of Peebles, on the border of Midlothian with entry at Whitsunday. This farm extends to 400 acres arable land and seventy acres of excellent pasture. Mr Pottinger and his brother William, who is remaining at Arthra, are sons of the late Mr Pottinger, Quoylinks, Deerness'.

This did not turn out to be a good move for Jim, since a short time after moving in he became involved in a dispute with a stockman who refused to get out of his house, something which resulted in an exchange of lawyer's letters, the outcome of which

isn't known. In the meantime he had acquired a house-keeper and on 1st November 1930 then aged 57, he and the house-keeper, named **Elsie Ann Margaret Duncan** aged 29, were married at 34 Chambers Street Edinburgh by warrant of the

Sheriff Substitute in front of

witnesses. The farmhouse at Wester Deans had been furnished by Jim with, it has been said, expensive furniture acquired in Edinburgh, and presumably they lived in married bliss until some months later when in May 1931 it became apparent that Jim's 'wife' was already married! In fact she had married **James Joss**, aged 26 Mosshead, parish of Clatt on the 20th of November 1918 when he was stated to be a private soldier in the Gordon Highlanders, British Expeditionary Force, her maiden name given as **Elsie Young** aged 21. It appears that a son was born later in 1918 at Clatt. Once again family sources and former neighbours with whom I have spoken have it that Jim had opened a letter addressed to his wife and by reading it discovered the situation whereby she had

been sending money to her original husband **James Joss**, Bogend farm, Clatt, Aberdeenshire. This resulted in his 'wife' appearing in court at Edinburgh on Tuesday 5th May 1931 where she pled guilty to the charge of bigamous marriage. Meanwhile it would seem that Jim was more than a little upset by all this and was perhaps contemplating some sort of reaction. At any rate It is related that he discussed the possible insurance situation with the local postman but whatever advice this individual gave, Jim seems to have ignored because he reportedly set fire to the property, then presumably contacted the insurance people who after investigating the matter declined to pay out. Once more family sources



Jim Pottinger and his 'wife'.

claim that his older brother (John) at Quoylinks in Deerness helped out by sending money. One statement which Jim is reported to have made on the discovery of his sham marriage was that he would kill Elsie, put her in a grave and put a sheep on top!

It looks as if Jim ended his time at Wester Deans (about five years) in 1933 when his effects were sold off by Lawrie & Symington Auctioneers. Once again Jim had a disagreement, this time with some of the valuation, saying that the dung was undervalued and accusing a neighbour (Mr **Pate** snr.) of failing to back him up by saying that the dung was old and should have been spread on the fields. Mr **Pate** jnr. told me that he was only 15 years old when Jim took over the farm but he remembered him quite well being a big man who smoked a pipe. He also said that Jim 'fell out with his neighbours, didn't socialise, liked his own way, had no transport of any sort but was a very strong man who would lift stray sheep over fences. When he had sheep for sale he would, according to Mr **Pate**, walk them to the nearby railway station en route to market. Where he went after this episode isn't clear but he may have gone back to his brother at Arthra for a time. I have visited Wester Deans and with the permission of the then owner obtained



West End Farm farmhouse, Wrentham, Suffolk

photographs of the dwelling house.

Not one to let the grass grow under his feet Jim next appears in Suffolk. There are instances of other Orcadians/Scotsmen following this trend about that time — (thirties). In fact I was told that Jim's predecessor

in the farm was another Scotsman — **Dave Fenwick**. The family of one of Jim's neighbours at Wester Deans (the Routledge family) also had property in Wrentham, Suffolk and possibly through this avenue Jim became aware of the opportunity of moving to this area. Around 1937 Jim secured the tenancy of West End Farm near▶



Wester Deans

◀ in Suffolk, which was part of the Frostenden Estate, a farm mostly in grass, suitable for sheep farming. Indeed there is a tale that he took sheep there with him and he is said to have had a large flock. The farm comprised some 227 acres for which he paid a rental of £220. Wrentham is a parish and small town 2 miles from the sea on the road from Ipswich to Yarmouth. (Source - Kelly's Directory 1937). When in 1924 the Frostenden Estate was sold off it was purchased by Mr **Overland** who decided to keep some of the farms in grass and let them to sheep farmers from Scotland. However in 1944 it was sold again, this time to Mr **Southgate** and it was he who gave **Jim Pottinger** notice to quit at Michaelmas 1944. The reason for this isn't known but information from a neighbour was that the two men had 'an almighty row' following which Jim ran him off the farm! Perhaps not the most sensible thing to have done? Also by this time the Suffolk War Agricultural Executive Committee had taken over 42 acres of the farm and a part had also been requisitioned by the War Department for a road. This probably did not meet with Jim's approval either having been given notice to quit for the reason specified in Section 12 (1) (a) of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1923, it is written that 'THE VENDORS DO NOT WARRANT THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ENFORCE THE NOTICE'. I wonder why?

Jim had brought a housekeeper with him, former neighbours have told me. This lady was a Miss **Elizabeth Linklater** (Lizzie) who was also an Orcadian. It isn't known if there was a family connection between them but he sometimes referred to her as his 'cousin' Mr **Routledge** told me that Jim sported a beard, had curly hair going grey but hadn't much strength - he would then have been in his sixties. Both he and his housekeeper went to the Methodist church which was quite near the farm. Jim wasn't involved in local affairs but was said to be hasty tempered. He was in court at one time because he had refused to pay a contractor who had carried out some work for him; Jim lost the case but later, outside the court, assaulted the contractor. There was no transport on the farm and on at least one occasion when Miss **Linklater** required the services of a doctor she was conveyed to the surgery in a horse cart driven by one of two German prisoners who had been allocated to Jim for farm work.

Being interested in the life of my great-uncle **Jim Pottinger** I wrote to the 'occupier of West End Farm' in February 1996 in a search for information and almost immediately received a reply from **Danny Hall** whose address was also West End Farm (there were two with the same name within a short distance of each other). He has furnished me with some information concerning Jim when he was at the other West End Farm and in 2000 my wife and I, along with two friends, visited Mr & Mrs Hall and were able to view Jim's former property. In fact **Danny Hall** had bought over 50 acres of Jim's former farm at some time. A regular correspondence was kept up between us for some years but unfortunately Danny has since passed away so that source has been lost. He did comment on the fact that none of the local boys ever risked going on Jim's farm for fear of being run off. Crops grown on Danny's farm were wheat, oilseed rape and peas which were grown on contract for Birds Eye. It hasn't yet been possible to find out what the repercussions were of having been given notice to leave the farm but on the 15th December 1946 Jim was admitted to what was then called the 'Red House Institution' which provided residential relief for the poor. Later in 1948 with the creation of the National Health Service the Red House was transferred to the Ministry of Health. It was renamed Blythburgh District Hospital and was later used for geriatric patients. It was closed in 1994. When in Suffolk (2000) we visited this property,

then being renovated and turned into housing. Jim passed away at Blythburgh on the 21st of December 1946, aged 74, the cause of death stated to be 'Hemiplegia' which is said usually to be one sided paralysis, often caused by a stroke. He was interred in St Nicholas Parish Church Wrentham and when we visited the cemetery in 2000 the absence of a headstone was noted so some time later this matter was addressed by the provision of a small stone to mark Jim's resting place, paid for by some of his Orcadian relatives and installed by Graham Howsham Memorials, Lowestoft.



It seems odd that in spite of being given notice to quit in 1944 by the new owner, Jim appears to have retained the tenancy until the time of his death in December 1946. Perhaps the clause referring to the fact that 'the vendors not warrant that it would be possible to enforce the notice' came into play?

Did perhaps Miss Linklater 'hold the fort' during Jim's absence? A month or so later the sale of Jim's stock, implements and other farming equipment took place on Thursday 23rd January 1947 at West End Farm, the auctioneers being George Durrant & Sons, Beccles and Harleston, and included 76 head of cattle, 3 horses, 13 sheep as well as goats, poultry and other items including household furniture, all being looked after by Miss Linklater, as administratrix. It has recently been discovered that Jim had made a will naming his sister **Jessie Ann** as the beneficiary the amount being £2627, 4 shillings and 10 pence, quite a substantial sum at that time. Perhaps this included the proceeds of the sale? It is believed that Jess was present at Jim's sale. **Jessie Ann** had spent a great deal of her working life in the service of the Earl and Countess of Bradford as a lady's maid and in fact travelled all over the world with them. when she retired she returned to Orkney ending her days at Garth



Jessie Ann Pottinger on the left with the Earl and Countess of Bradford. March 1923

St Ola where her sister **Agnes** lived with her husband and family. Following the sale Miss Linklater was making her way north on January 3rd 1947 when on Waverly Station she suffered a brain haemorrhage and later died 'at or near the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh'. Her death was reported by an **R. Copland** 3 Farm Row, Halbeath, near

Dunfermline who was said to be a brother and who registered the death on 5th January 1947. Her parents were named as being **Robert Linklater** and **Christina Flett Harvey**. There is a headstone in the Stromness Kirkyard which appears to relate to this family.

Robert Linklater d. 1917 aged 63. Wife **Christina** d. 1953 aged 94. Family:- **Maggie** died 1921 aged 34

Annie May died 1948 aged 56. **Lizzie** died 1946 aged 53.

Barbara Ann died 1890- aged 11 **Isabel** died 1909 aged 7.

William died 1915 aged 18. The quest continues for more information about Jim Pottinger but it is getting more difficult as time passes. ■



By Colleen Smith, Member No.2484



Jack & Jessie's Wedding Day

Our granny and grandad **Jessie Cruickshank** and **Jack Baikie** were married on The 26th February 1914 at Nutland. As I am writing this, it is just on 100 years ago since Jessie and Jack left London on the 2nd April 1914 for New Zealand. They travelled on the RMS Tainui arriving in Wellington New Zealand on 20 May 1914. This is their story...

Jack was born at Lower Arsdale Farm in the parish of Evie on 14 August 1893 and was the third eldest son born to **Andrew** and **Adamina Baickie** of Lower Arsdale.

His siblings were **Andrew**, **James William**, **Adamina Mary**, **David Ollay**, and **William**. **David** was sadly to die at the age of

two, as a result of an accident when his clothing caught fire (1902)

The first of the brothers to join his Uncle **John Baikie**



Lower Arsdale Farm, Evie

(known as Boss Baikie) at Pikes Point Glenavy, New Zealand, was **James**, a joiner by trade. He went in 1909. **Andrew** followed in 1912. Jack in 1914. This left his sister **Adamina** who was to marry **John Moar**

Adamina and **John** had two sons and a daughter and **William** who stayed on at Arsdale and married **Edith Leonard**. **William** and **Edith** had four daughters one of whom resides at Arsdale today. **Jack** age 7 shows up in the 1901 Census as being at Arsdale with his parents **Andrew** 41 and **Adamina** 41 and his siblings **Andrew** 12, **James** 11, **Adamina** 5 and **David** aged 1.

Jack age 17 is shown in the 1911 Census as living at Arsdale with his parents both aged 51 and his brothers **Andrew** 22 and **William** 9 plus his sister **Adamina** 15. Jack is listed as being a Blacksmith apprentice. It is believed that Jack served his apprenticeship at a blacksmith's place called Brenday in Evie



Grandad's siblings L to R. Grandad Jack, Andrew, James, William and Adamina,

possibly about 3 miles from Arsdale. He then had a forge at his uncle's grocer's shop at Upper Arsdale. It was told by Jack to one of his grandsons that he had worked as a Blacksmith at the Railway workshops in Glasgow.

Jane Jessie Cruickshank Baikie

Jane Jessie usually known as Jessie was born at Nutland Parish of Firth 7 December 1891. Her parents were **Alexander** and **Elizabeth Cruickshank**. Her mother's maiden name was **Corsie**. Her father was a farm Servant. **Jessie** was the eldest of eleven children. These being:

Alexander, **Elizabeth Ann Marshall**, **Isabella Flett**, **Margaret Ellen**, **Francis Douglas**, **Williamina Corsie**, **James Fea**, **John**, **William**, **Mary**. From Census data Jessie spent a lot of time with her grandparents **Samuel** and **Jane Corsie** who lived at Nutland Firth.

The 1901 Census shows **Jessie** age 9 living at Nutland Parish of Firth, with her Grandparents **Samuel** (65) and **Jane Corsie** (66). Her parents were living in Midhouse Eve, with her siblings **Elizabeth Ann** 15, **Margaret** 11, **Francis** 9, **Williamina** 7 and **James** 5.

The 1911 Census shows **Jessie** age 19, working as a servant in Greenock, Parish of St Paul, in Glasgow. **John Baikie** (20) married **Jane Jessie Cruickshank** (22) at her grandparents' house, Nutland, Firth, Orkney Islands on Thursday 26 February 1914. At some stage the young couple had made the choice to move across to the other side of the world to New Zealand possibly influenced by the shortage of work in Orkney at this time.

This was at the beginning of 1914 and the First World War▶

◀ was to start in a few months. There would, I am sure, have been rumours of war and this would have been of some concern to them.

For **Jack** it was probably different as he had an Uncle and his two brothers already settled and a job waiting for him.

But for **Jessie**, all she had was Jack.

RMS Tainui

Leaving your homeland to make a new beginning was a major life event. The journey to New Zealand began for most migrants with an overland trip to the English ports of London or Plymouth, or to Greenock docks near Glasgow where they would board the ship.

The Baikies would make the journey on the RMS Tainui arriving in Wellington on 20 May 1914.

Life in New Zealand

So here were **Jessie** and **Jack** on New Zealand soil at last, right smack bang into winter. Jack's brother **James** had travelled up from Glenavy to meet the couple. They caught a ferry from Wellington in the North Island to Christchurch in the South island. By the 24 of May they were all back at their Uncle John's house at Pikes Point Glenavy where Jack's brother **Andrew** came down from one of the farms to join them. What a wonderful celebration would have taken place as these three brothers were once again united. The brothers were to stay close for the rest of their lives never living very far from each other. Andrew was the only one to return to Orkney. In fact he went back twice. Story was that there was a girl there he was sweet on. Andrew was never to marry.

Jack was to work for his Uncle John for many years in fact it was not until 1929 that Jessie and Jack bought their own farm. There was no time allowed for Jessie and Jack to settle into life in New Zealand. By the second week in June they had already been moved out onto one of **Boss Baikie**'s properties at Waikati. They were to live here for the next six years. While they were living here all of their four living children were born. **Margaret** 1914 was followed by **Cecilia Jane** born 1915, then **Andrina** (my mother in law) born 1917 and **John Cruickshank** born 1919. I can imagine their delight when a son arrived.

Jack and Jessie had a stillborn son, born on the 25 June 1927 while they were living at *Hakataramea*..

Life became a cycle of lambing, docking lambs, crutching, dipping, shearing. There were also the cattle, milking and calving. Ploughing, discing, harrowing the land and planting grass, sowing wheat, oats and barley; harvesting and carting of crops; planting, digging and picking over potatoes. Shoeing and clipping horses and topping trees. Cutting gorse and clearing stones from the farms. This was hard and often back breaking work and their days were often very long. **Jack** would have been moved around the other farms owned by **Boss Baikie** as needed and other help would have come to give him a hand when needed. There was fencing to be done and the never ending problems with the rabbits. So for **Jack** and **Jessie** life went on and on in a circle as the different seasons came and went. They were to move to another two of **Boss Baikie**'s farms before they bought their own. Winters in the area they lived were very severe. **Boss Baikie**'s farms were in barren, isolated and sometime very hilly, rugged country.

SHERWOOD DOWNS

Sherwood Downs this was the name of the farm that **Jessie** and **Jack** bought and what a time to move, right on winter.

Sherwood Downs was a 1,450 Border Leicester and Romney sheep farm. The Border Leicester was used as a crossing sire to produce heavyweight lambs and wether mutton, as well as contributing high fertility and good mothering qualities to its cross-bred offspring. It was also used to increase fertility in the commercial Romney. The farm consisted of 1664 acres.

This breed of sheep was used to develop New Zealand's Border-Romney cross.

At *Sherwood Downs* they had ten milking cows.. Wheat, Oats and turnips had been sown before they moved in. Jack would have used horses to do all the turning over of the paddocks.

Things overall did not go well there. It was an extremely hard life. These were the years of the Great Depression. Times were very hard for all people over the country. For many it was a time of great stress, hunger and despair. Many farmers unable to keep up their mortgage just walked off their properties. As well as the depression, during these times farmers were fighting the low refunds for sheep and lambs, depressed prices for the wool clips as well as the climate. The sharpest price fall was

that of wool, which declined by 60 per cent from 1929 to 1932; meat fell a good deal less. The winters were very harsh with extreme cold



Sherwood Downs Farm

and with large snow storms. One year while they were there it flooded really badly and the girls had to go out to pull the sheep off the fence lines they had been washed onto. Jessie would have had to contend with the water freezing over. The children would have to go out in winter and try to pull frozen



Jack and Jessie's children. John, Margaret, Andrina and Jean.

swedes to feed the sheep. Everyone in the family would have to pitch in and help one way or the other, this is what farm life was like back then. The Depression deprived many children of any education beyond the school leaving age. They were compelled to leave school and take any work, at however small a wage, to help the family to survive.

However, the family would have been self sufficient here as they were in the other places. But being self sufficient does not pay the mortgage or other bills. They would have killed their own sheep for mutton. Nothing was wasted; they ate the kidneys, heart, liver

and tongue.together with less appetising things like tripe and brains. Chickens and hens would have provided eggs and when past laying would have been boiled and eaten. ▶

◀The cows would have given them their milk and cream and Jessie would have made the butter. There would have been venison and rabbits as well. In fact there were plagues of rabbits during this time; they write of hills appearing to move as there were so many rabbits. There would have been plenty of fish as well.

Sherwood Downs already had a large established orchard. Jessie would have been busy preserving and bottling fruit and vegies, making jams and jellies, salting down meat, to provide food in the off seasons. She would have had the baking and cooking as well. Jessie also would have been busy darning, knitting and sewing.

Clothes would have been cut sewn from hand-me-downs, flour bags and sugar sacks. The flour bags were washed and left outside in the frost to take the print off them. They were used for underclothes, pillowslips, curtains, etc.

All of these places **Jack** and **Jessie** lived in so far would have had no running water or electricity. Water would have been from the tank outside through a fixed tap. Some of the wood or coal ranges may have had a hot water supply. Lighting would have been kerosene lanterns or candles.

Although they often lived in very isolated areas, it was not all hard work and no play for Jack and Jessie. They may well have attended the welcome home celebration for those returning from the war in April 1919 at the Morven Social. On 11th July 1919 they all attended a social at Glenavy to welcome home the returned soldiers. On the 20th July they all attended the Oamaru Peace Day. For Jack and Jessie these days may have held special meanings as Jack's brother Andrew had to have his right leg amputated below the knee as a result of being injured at Flanders. Andrew had joined C Company, 2nd Battalion, Canterbury Regiment in the Field on 25th July. There would have been the Oamaru, Waimate and Timaru shows as well as no doubt Sheep Dog trials and wool sales for Jack. There appeared to have been fairly regular dances held in the barn at Pikes Point. Usually at these dances the ladies would all bring a plate of food for the supper table. There would also have been many games of cards played. As well I am sure the three brothers and their families would have had many a 'Scottish' evening together with other locals.

Opie Street Waimate

Now **Jack** and **Jessie** have made the move from rural living to that of suburbia. Waimate is situated inland and about two and half hour's drive from Christchurch. This was a very different life style indeed. For once Jessie would have had close neighbours and shops within walking distance. The district with its lush paddocks and rolling hills is a productive agricultural area with a mix of pastoral, cropping, dairy farming, fruit and vegetable growing. Strawberries have been grown in the Waimate district since early in the 1880s; today the berry fruit industry remains an important industry in the town. Its wide spacious streets, valued collection of Edwardian buildings, including several churches of historic importance, and beautiful parks and gardens create a relaxed friendly environment for both residents and visitors.

There was a cow byre and lots of sheds on the property. Jessie and Jack had a large vegetable garden, big orchard, lots of chickens, two or three milking cows which Jessie or the children would have been milking. They also had dogs and cats. They sold milk and eggs to neighbours or swapped for what they needed.

Jack worked as a carpenter as well as shoeing horses when they moved into Waimate. He got to be very well known around the district as he did a lot of building work for the farmers in the area.

Jessie's brother **James Cruickshank** was to come to New

Zealand. James arrived into Port Chalmers on the SS Hororata around 20-21 March 1925. On the passenger list he travelled third class with three other men from Orkney. They left Liverpool on 10th January 1925 and all disembarked at Port Chalmers Dunedin. James address was given as Nutland, Firth, Orkney and he was 18 years old.

So here they were nearly ten years in New Zealand before Jessie was to be reunited with one of her family. This was to be the only one of her family to come out. I often reflect on how this would have been for Jessie. James was to live with Jessie and Jack for sometime but eventually he was to settle in the Christchurch area and was believed to have had a Market Garden. He later married and had two sons. James was well known for playing the fiddle at local dances.

Jessie died at Opie Street on Sunday 13th June 1937 aged 45 years. The causes of death were Pulmonary Oedema (3 hours) which is fluid in the lungs. Myocardial Degeneration (3 years) which is degeneration of the heart muscle.

She was buried in the old Waimate cemetery on Tuesday 15 June 1937. Not much is known of Jessie's life as she had died before most of her now living relatives in New Zealand were born. Jack and Jessie had an extended family of 21 grandchildren, and 24 great grand children up to 1972.



Jack's second marriage. To **Helen Crawford McNeur Douglas Baikie**.

Helen was born on 7th April 1903 at Waimate. She married **Jack Baikie** on the 10th December 1938 at Waimate. They were married at Helen's parents' house at Willowbridge. Willowbridge is situated about ten km east of Waimate. Jack was aged 45 and a widower and Helen aged 35 and a Spinster.

Helen's parents were **William Dewar Douglas** and **Helen Crawford (McNeur) Douglas**. **William** and **Helen** were married at the Star Hotel Port Glasgow Scotland on 23rd July 1902. William was 39 years old and a bachelor, farmer and previously a ships painter at Port Glasgow. Helen was 28 years old, a spinster and had been a grocery shop assistant when they married. On the 30th July 1902 one week after their wedding William and Helen sailed on the SS Athenic from London arriving at Port Chalmers Dunedin New Zealand on the 18th September 1902.

How and when **Helen** met **Jack** is not known but what is known is that **Helen** knew **Jessie** before **Jessie** got sick and she nursed **Jessie** as **Jessie's** health deteriorated. Helen was probably employed as a house keeper at some stage. **Helen** and **Jack** were to have only one child that being a daughter called **Annie Isabel** born on the 5th June 1946 at Waimate. ▶

◀ **Jack and Helen** in 1955 bought a property at Timaru Road Waimate where they lived until Jack died in 1972. Helen continued to live there until her health started to fail and she moved into Lister Home.

Helen was in Lister Rest Home Waimate for a few years before she died there on 8th August 1994. Helen was 91. The story was that she woke up in the morning and asked the nurse for a drink of water and when the nurse got back she had died. Helen is buried in the Waimate lawn Cemetery

Jack died in the Waimate Hospital on Saturday 20th May 1972. Jack had suffered multiple strokes over a period of two years and had had bronchopneumonia for two days. Bronchopneumonia is a type of pneumonia characterized by an inflammation of the lung generally associated with, and following a bout with bronchitis. He spent some considerable time in hospital before he died.

Helen would walk up to the hospital nearly every day to see Jack. Towards the end of his time, it was sad to go and visit him as he could not talk, he would just look at you and the tears would trickle down his face. It was as if his brain was remembering things but he could not communicate it. Jack and Helen had three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

For **Jessie and Jack** their story ends fifty-eight years after leaving Orkney when Jack is buried beside Jessie in the Old Waimate Cemetery Presbyterian.

My husband and I have been to Orkney twice once in 2010 and again last year. Grandad never spoke of Orkney, I guess his generation never did and I never thought to ask my mother-in-law, **Andrina**, one of **Jack's** daughters about her mother **Jessie**. Andrina was twenty when her mother died, so she would have had good memories of her. When we first arrived in Orkney, my husband **Arthur Smith** was the first direct bloodline of **Jessie** and **Jack** to do so. I remember thinking—well grandad it is the full circle

now, we are here where you left from all those years ago. I was amazed at the beauty and the age of the buildings, what skill was involved in building these. In New Zealand we have nothing that even comes close to it. More importantly, to visit Lower Arsdale and walk where grandad had walked many times, to see that amazing view from the house. That house was so small for all those children as well as grandparents who lived there.

My goodness poor mum with all those boisterous boys!!! To be able to meet the wonderful relatives on both Jack and Jessie's side of the family. To be able to seek out houses where Jessie and her family had lived which in turn gave us a greater understanding of what life had been for them; to get a feel for Orkney, which has a way of drawing you back there. Meeting with Jessie's relations helped build a picture of what Jessie may have been like. They truly are beautiful people who just made us feel as if nothing was a bother. Oh my goodness some of Grandad's relations, well what can I say, we have one who just loves to drop off to sleep at anytime, he will know who it is when he reads this. Wonderful person. As for the wonderful ladies from Lower Arsdale – how welcome they made us feel as they shared their stories. We so appreciated it. I would love to come to Orkney for a winter, just to experience it. I am not sure it would be much different to some I have experienced in the South Island of New Zealand. The main difference would be the daylight hours. There we had daylight for about 8 hours a day. ■



Colleen Smith

Here is your chance to participate in our World War 1 Exhibition

Following on from the success of our impromptu WW1 evening in March we are planning for a two day event to mark the centenary of the Great War in the

**MacGillivray Room of the Orkney Library & Archive on
Fri. Sept 19th 1pm to 5pm and Sat. Sept 20th 11am to 4pm**

We are hoping that anyone with WW1 memorabilia, photos, medals, souvenirs, etc, especially with an Orcadian connection, will be prepared to exhibit these mementoes on this very special occasion. Mr David Mackie, the Senior Archivist, and his colleagues will be putting together a series of photographs relevant to the occasion and it may be that you will have something similar to share with visitors to the event.

If you already exhibited at our March event we hope that you will take this opportunity to do so again in the MacGillivray Room. You will remember the great interest shown by the visitors and this time you will be able to exhibit your material to a much larger audience.

We hope that many of you will take part in this event to mark Orkney's significant participation in the, 'War to end all wars'.

**For further details, reservation of tables display spaces etc, contact Anne Rendall at 01856 874440 (after 6pm) or the ORKNEY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY, on or before July 21st 2014, at 44 Junction Rd, Kirkwall.
(Open Mon-Fri 2 - 4pm. Sat 11 - 4.30 pm) Tel 01856 879207)**





O B I T U A R Y



Every day was an adventure for Fred

By John Sinclair, Member No 588

... and now he is off on another one for on the 23 March Captain Alfred (Fred) Johnston left on the biggest adventure of all.

Fred was born 79 years ago and was the eldest son of Fred and Alice Johnston of Brims, Longhope where, together with his brothers and sisters, he spent a happy childhood.

Schooling took place in one classroom where 5 - 14 year olds were taught together. Fred spoke about being fascinated by a big map of the world on the wall which was referred to most days. He often said that he thought it was instrumental in developing his love of exploring and adventure.

After leaving school Fred joined the crew of the Longhope lifeboat, the Thomas McCunn, where his father was coxswain.

He was just 16 when he took part in the rescue of 40 men from the Swedish tanker Oljaren in an operation that was to take 23 hours. For this rescue Fred's father was awarded the Bronze Medal for Gallantry.

Lifeboats were surely not exciting enough for Fred and the Royal Navy beckoned. He joined, aged 17, and was one of six sailors drafted from Devonport to HMS Dolphin, a training establishment for future submariners.

Here he had his nerve tested in the Dolphin's 100ft deep escape tower, escaping from hatches further and further down the tank. Fred joked afterwards that those who proved to be claustrophobic ended up in a cushy job aboard destroyers in the Far East.

While on leave in 1954 he was to meet my cousin Elizabeth Sinclair at a Stromness Youth Club dance and they were to marry 5 years later.

Fred served on 9 conventional submarines as well as the nuclear fleet. He said that they were quite luxurious; warm, comfortable, spacious and, above all, you could have a shower whenever you wanted one.

Plenty of adventures too as they were often on secret missions. During one in South East Asia, the submarine on which Fred was serving developed a crew-threatening fault in the air system. Surfacing where they were was not an option and Fred volunteered to clear the fault at considerable risk to himself. He succeeded, and for this action was 'mentioned in dispatches', which meant that his name appeared in an official report written by a superior officer and sent to high command noting a gallant or meritorious action.

During his service on the Renown they went to Cape Kennedy to fire their practice missile and got a grandstand view of Armstrong and his crew blasting off for the moon. Fred thought that was quite exciting but even better, in his opinion, was the fact that their practice missile travelled 2500 miles and splashed down within 100 yards of the target.

Fred left the Royal Navy after 22 years service having reached the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

Too early to retire he thought, so why not give the Merchant Service a try. That decided, he set upon gaining his Masters Ticket and that achieved, he embarked on a successful career with the P&O Shipping Company, eventually retiring as Master of the St Sunniva at the age of 60.

Fred's own sons have followed him into a maritime career and he was proud that each achieved their Master Mariner tickets.

Even after his retirement you could not keep him away from the sea as he actively engaged in yachting, yawl and dinghy sailing.

He competed in regattas all over Orkney and it was a poor year if he did not have a trophy or two to polish.

When the Longhope community heard that their lifeboat, the Thomas McCunn, had been used as a pleasure boat in Hayling Island off the south coast of England, they bought her from Mr Peter Roberts of Midhurst, Sussex, for the sum of £1. Fred, the last surviving crew member, together with a crew of current and ex-lifeboat men, sailed her back to Longhope, where she is the pride and joy of the Longhope Lifeboat Museum.

Fred was also an active committee member of the British Legion Stromness branch and was president for a number of years.

He regularly attended Armistice Day parades and memorial services for those lost on HMS Royal Oak and HMS Vanguard.

He was also an active member of the RNLI, the Royal Navy Association and the Stromness Sailing Club of which he was recently awarded life membership in recognition of all his work and support over the years.

Despite all these activities Fred also took an active interest in politics at both local and national levels and contributed to the open forums held by the OIC on plans for the development of the Stromness harbour area.

Holidays were inevitably cruising on ocean liners and he would entertain his grandchildren, Stuart and Hannah with tales of his adventures suitably embellished for the occasion.

Saturday nights were usually reserved for dancing at the British Legion in Kirkwall and both he and Liz were accomplished ballroom dancers.

He was an enthusiastic researcher of family history and a long standing member of the Orkney Family History Society. Fred was also a contributor to Sib Folk News and we collaborated on many articles together. He was always available when I needed some guidance of things nautical for the newsletter and he shared his knowledge generously.

He once said to me that it was sad there were no characters left in Stromness. Well Fred that is certainly true now.

Fred Johnston was one of the most honest and upright men you could hope to meet. He was a man of integrity. What you saw was what you got—and you could be sure it would always be interesting. ■

THE ORKNEY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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).

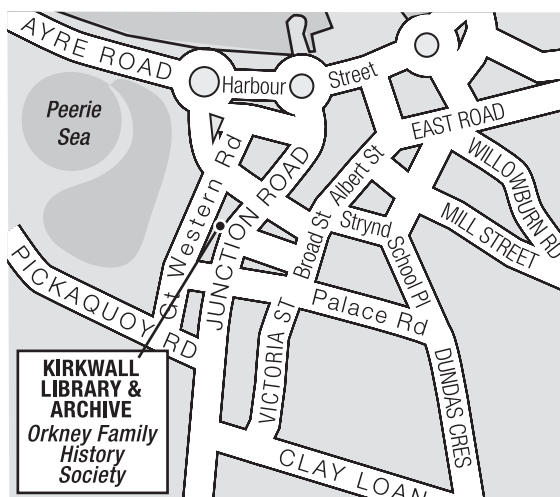
This material is available to members for 'in house' research by arrangement.

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 enquires should be addressed to the office in writing or to Treasurer George Gray (e-mail: george.gray147@btinternet.com)
 General Secy. Jackie Harrison (e-mail: jackie.harrison@orkney.com)
 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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