



Newsletter No. 21

May 2010

After such a long, hard, winter it is encouraging to see signs of Spring. Although I have not yet got into spring-cleaning mood as far as housework is concerned, I have been sorting and tidying the mountain of family history paperwork that had accumulated. It has proved worthwhile. Amongst all those diverse pieces of paper I found I had the necessary information to link someone to a family that I had long suspected might be hers. I have had the separate pieces of information for ages, but hadn't made the connection! It demonstrates how important it is to review the data you have gathered. Little bits that didn't make sense last time you looked, may have acquired a new significance in the light of more recent discoveries.

Filing paperwork can be a tricky business. No one system meets all requirements. For me, a behind the scenes tour of the National Library of Scotland provided an answer. There, the books in the stacks are filed not by subject or author, but by size and the date when they were acquired. It's simple, and an efficient use of space. I now have folders for my own family and my husband's, distinguished by our first initials. Each of these is divided into categories: **B**irths, **M**arriages, **D**eaths, **C**ensus and **M**iscellaneous. Within these, documents are numbered as I get them. So for example, my Grandparents' marriage certificate is filed under "Isabel/Marriages/no.5" and the ref. I/M/5 is appended to my computer file source notes. It works well. Documents can be quickly located.

Over the last few months a number of changes had to be made to the NPFHG syllabus. Vivienne Stapylton-Smith had to cancel her talk for health reasons. We wish her well. Then bad weather forced us to cancel the talk by Donald Isles. In March, Lydia Busby kindly came along to tell us about her ancestor Dr John Brown of Haddington. She is fortunate in having archival material that has been handed down the family, and she has been able to piece together a great deal of information about him, his father, and his grandfather. These last two were ministers, and I was particularly impressed that the elder of them, an orphaned shepherd lad, had taught himself the Latin and Greek required for admission to University by reading the Bible in those languages and

comparing them to the Authorised English Version. A truly remarkable achievement!

After a lot of work by all concerned the Aberfeldy Cemetery MI book is available at last, and costs £6.00.

On May 1st Moulin Kirk re-opens for the summer and helpers are needed both for our Research Room and for the Kirk itself. Volunteers work minimum two hour shifts, or longer if they wish. Please consider helping in this way, even if only to provide occasional emergency cover.

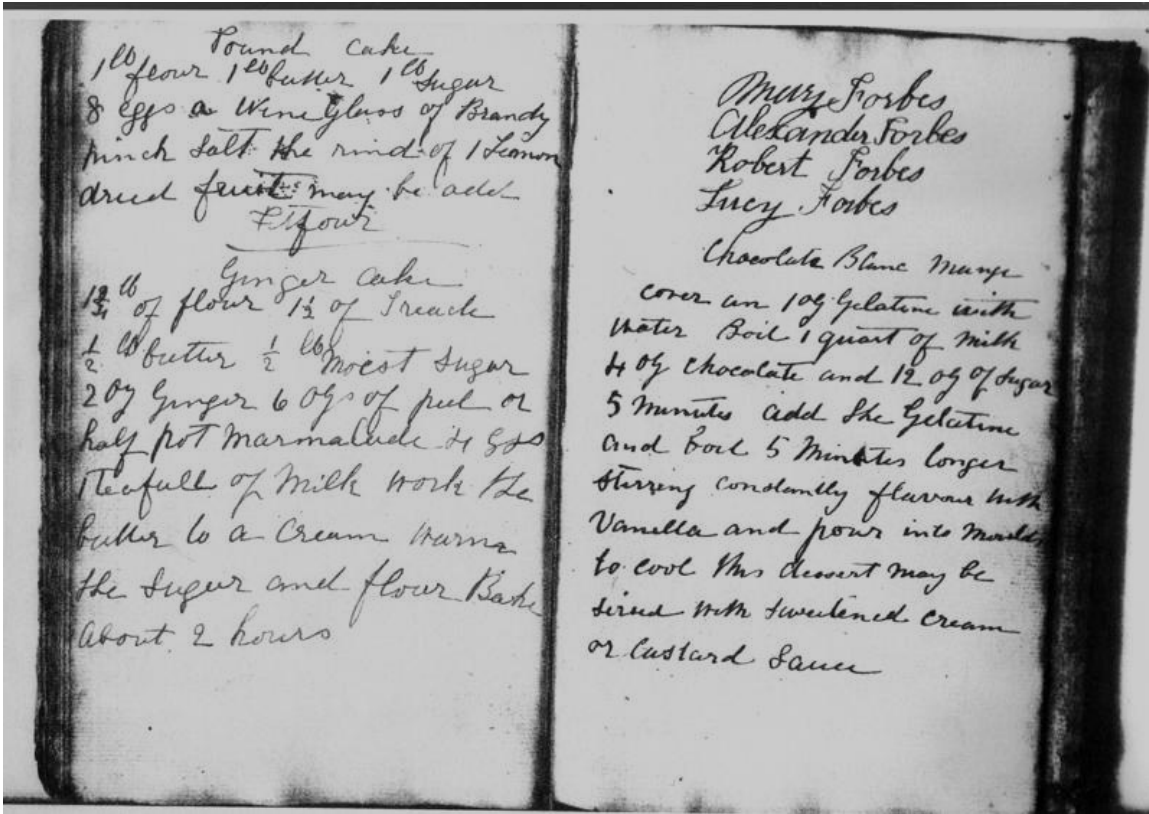
During the winter an old notebook came to light, that seems to have been kept by Rev. D. Macalister Donald, one of Moulin's ministers, for his own use. In it he notes marriages from 1896-1927, and deaths from 1900-1926. The registration details can of course be found on Scotlands People, but what makes the notebook valuable in terms of family history is that he often mentions relationships, and where burials took place. It has already helped us answer a query about where someone was buried. To preserve the book the pages have been scanned and transcribed, and are available on the computer in the Research Room.

With the A.G.M. approaching, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that three key members of the NPFHG Committee, myself included, have for some time wished to step down. With no successors coming forward we have carried on rather than see the Group fail. However this cannot continue indefinitely. If no-one new is elected this year we are prepared to serve for ONE more year, but are determined that it will be the last. It is therefore important that members consider the following questions:

- Do you wish the NPFHG to continue?
- Should it continue in its present form?
- What other options are there?

Disappointingly, no articles were submitted for the Newsletter this time. I hope we can do better next time.

Isabel Hay



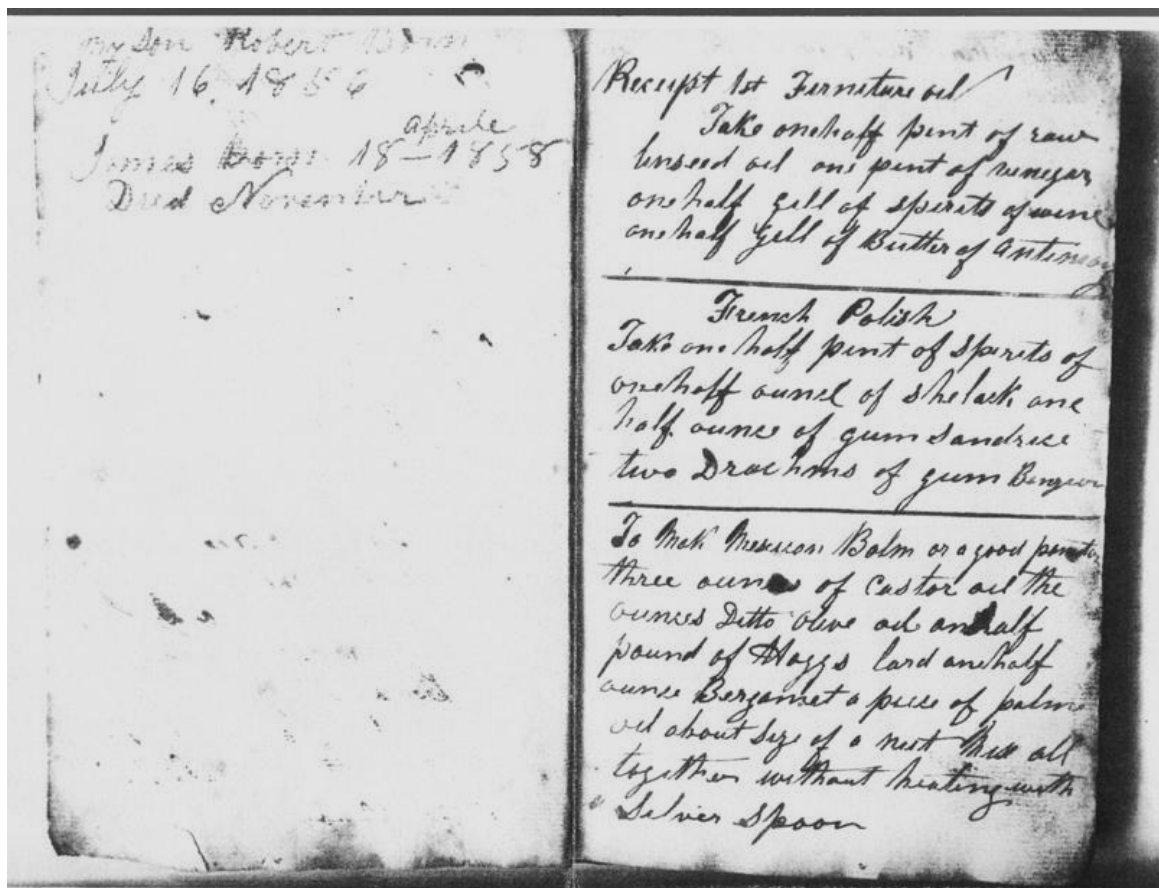
Pound cake  
 1<sup>lb</sup> flour 1<sup>lb</sup> butter 1<sup>lb</sup> sugar  
 8 eggs a Wine glass of Brandy  
 pinch salt the rind of 1 Lemon  
 dried fruit may be add  
 Flour

Ginger cake  
 1<sup>lb</sup> of flour 1<sup>lb</sup> of Treacle  
 1/2 lb butter 1/2 lb moist sugar  
 2oz Ginger 6oz of peel or  
 half pot marmalade 4 eggs  
 The full of Milk work the  
 butter to a Cream then  
 the sugar and flour Bake  
 about 2 hours

Mary Forbes  
 Alexander Forbes  
 Robert Forbes  
 Lucy Forbes

Chocolate Blanc Marge  
 cover an 10g. Gelatine with  
 water Boil 1 quart of milk  
 4 oz chocolate and 12 oz of sugar  
 5 minutes add the Gelatine  
 and boil 5 minutes longer  
 stirring constantly flavor with  
 Vanilla and pour into moulds  
 to cool this Dessert may be  
 served with sweetened cream  
 or Custard Sauce

Bob Forbes sent us these pages from a notebook belonging to his great grandfather, Alexander Forbes, who featured in Newsletter no.15. Alexander was born about 1812 at Killiechassie, and became first a butler, and then an inn-keeper. They offer a fascinating glimpse of everyday life in the 1800s. Notes of births and deaths are jotted next to recipes from cake to furniture polish. One wonders whether the ingredients for the polishes and balm would be obtainable today.



my son Robert born  
 July 16. 1856  
 James Forbes 18-1858  
 Died November

Receipt for Furniture oil  
 Take one half pint of raw  
 linseed oil one pint of macegon  
 one half Gall of spirits of wine  
 one half Gall of Butter of Antimony

French Polish  
 Take one half pint of Spirits of  
 one half ounce of Shellack one  
 half ounce of gum sandrace  
 two Drachms of gum Benzoin

To Make Russian Balm or a good plaster  
 three ounces of Castor oil the  
 ounces Ditto olive oil and half  
 pound of Blays lard and half  
 ounce Bergamot a piece of palm  
 oil about size of a nut mix all  
 together without heating with  
 a Silver Spoon

## Book Review

“Tracing Your Criminal Ancestors. A Guide for Family Historians” by Stephen Wade  
Pen and Sword Books Ltd - £12.99

We may think that we know what is meant by “criminal”. However the exact definition in law has varied over time, and methods of dealing with criminal behaviour have also changed according to the way in which specific crimes were perceived at different periods. Occasionally too, the changes were political; using fines as punishment could provide a useful source of revenue.

In this book Stephen Wade begins by describing the English Court system, explaining the types of crime each court dealt with, and the terminology a researcher will encounter. He goes on to illustrate with case histories a wide range of offences, from murder and theft to enterprises such as coin clipping in order to make more coins from the trimmings. Each chapter discusses what records exist and where they are likely to be found. The book concludes with an extensive bibliography and a list of sources to consult, including some that were new to me.

Although the book is about tracing criminals in England, it will also be of interest to anyone researching a Scottish criminal. Before Peterhead and Barlinnie prisons were built, Scottish convicts were transported or served part of their sentences in English prisons after initially being held in General Prison (Perth). This means that some of their records may be found in Archives and Record Offices in England.

If you are researching a criminal ancestor, you are sure to find this book a rewarding read.

Visit

[www.npfhg.org](http://www.npfhg.org)

for the latest news from NPFHG

Any syllabus changes will be notified here.

## Pitlochry History Circle

At the meeting of Pitlochry History Circle on Monday, September 27th 2010, at 7.30p.m. in the Tryst, the speaker will be the well-known historian Professor T.C. Smout. His subject will be “Using the Perthshire Woods 1600-1900”.

All are welcome.

## Articles for Publication

Articles are welcomed for publication in the Newsletter. They should be original work please, should preferably relate to Highland Perthshire. Photographs can also be used although fine detail may not reproduce well due to the limitations of printing. Both may be submitted to the editor, Isabel Hay, by e-mail, (vicechairman@npfhg.org), on CD, or by post to:-

Newsletter, c/o 21a Robertson Cres., Pitlochry, PH16 5HD.

The deadline for the Sep. Newsletter is 24th Aug. 2010

## Perth & Kinross Today Perthshire Photographic Society Perth 800 - Exhibition 2010

Threshold Art Space, Perth Concert Hall  
Until 10th Aug. 2010

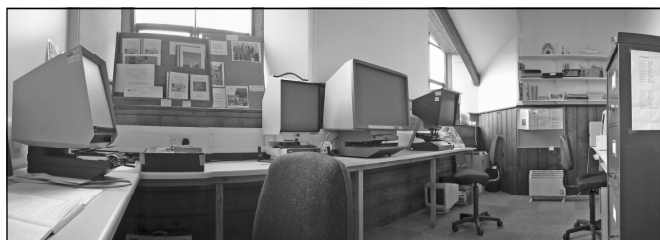
Birnam Institute  
4th-29th Sep. 2010

The photographs in this free exhibition were taken over the past year by around 30 members of Perth Photographic Society, and will eventually be archived. Their aim was to document Perth & Kinross as it is now. Subjects depicted are as varied as the techniques used; there are people and places, shops, villages, and much more. There is something of interest everyone, so if you can, drop in and have a look.

## Publications

Available from the Research Room at Moulin Kirk, at meetings, or by post from:  
 NPFHG Vicechairman, 21a Robertson Crescent,  
 Pitlochry, PH16 5HD (Tel. 01796 473293). We regret that post & packing charges have had to be increased, although we use recycled packaging where possible to keep overall costs down. P&p charge for multiple items on request.

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| Moulin MIs                                   | £4.00 +<br>£1.50 p&p |
| Blair Atholl MIs                             | £4.00 +<br>£1.50 p&p |
| Kilmaveonaig MIs                             | £3.00 +<br>£1.50 p&p |
| HolyTrinity MIs                              | £3.00 +<br>£1.50 p&p |
| St Mary's Grandtully                         | £3.00 +<br>£1.50 p&p |
| Tenandry Church, Bonskeid &<br>Fincastle MIs | £3.00 +<br>£1.50 p&p |
| Aberfeldy Cemetery MIs                       | £6.00 +<br>£1.50 p&p |
| Pitlochry Memorials                          | £2.00 +<br>£1.00 p&p |
| Moulin 1820-26 Census<br>Transcription       | £6.00 +<br>£2.50 p&p |



### Research Room in Moulin Kirk

Open from 1st May 2010

Mon. Wed. Sat. 12noon - 4p.m.  
 (Kirk open daily 12noon - 4p.m.)

### Committee

|                |                          |              |
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| Helen McNicoll | Secretary                | 01796 472723 |
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