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## Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for January 15th, 2021

For the latest news from Scotland see our ScotNews feed at:

<https://electricscotland.com/scotnews.htm>

### Electric Scotland News

I'm, not sure how many of you watch the Rev. Nola Crewe's Thoughts for a Sunday morning and if you haven't watched I'd highly recommend watching last Sunday's 14 minute segment where she is talking about honesty by Politicians and Government officials or lack thereof. You can view it at:

<https://youtu.be/he-l-DwnEWQ>

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Next week I'll be starting to work on the Electric Scotland Community on [www.electricscotland.org](http://www.electricscotland.org) where I'll be removing all the add ons which will mean all the YouTube videos won't display BUT the links to them should be available. To do the upgrade I have to remove these so that the upgrade can be installed. Once that is done I'll be able to add new add ons if appropriate.

My intention is to order and pay for the upgrade next week and then it will take up to 7 business days to get the upgrade installed. I will then need to check that all is working and where there are any issues to get them sorted asap and then bring back the service for you all to use.

As there will be new security installed with the upgrade it will mean that the system will allow new members to join.

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So 2020 was the year of President Trump and Brexit and Scottish Independence and the Pandemic All these issues will continue in 2021 and so will how China gets on with the world and how more widespread the support for Israel will be in the Middle East. I also think that due to social media banning Trump there will be a call to deal with this issue and perhaps see the breaking up of some of those organisations and the lifting of some of their immunities.

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers

Note that this is a selection and more can be read in our ScotNews feed on our index page where we list news from the past 1-2 weeks. I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland and world news stories that can affect Scotland and as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on Google and other search engines it becomes a good resource. I might also add that in a number of newspapers you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish which I do myself from time to time.

Two more life-saving Covid drugs discovered

Two more life-saving drugs have been found that can cut deaths by a quarter in patients who are sickest with Covid.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-55574662>

Gene editing is a truly miraculous technology - we must make full use of it  
Cheaper food, better harvests, fewer fertilisers - what's not to like?

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/gene-editing-is-a-truly-miraculous-technology-we-must-make-full-use-of-it>

Turning sea water into white gold in a Fife village

Salt harvesting is being revived in a Fife coastal village - 200 years after the industry ended in the area. The East Neuk Salt Company plans to produce two tonnes of artisan sea salt every month from February in St Monans.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-55485370>

The SNP has failed Scotland's Children

Let me be clear I want to be judged on this. If you are not, as First Minister, prepared to put your neck on the line on the education of our young people then what are you prepared to? It really matters.

Read more at:

[https://www.thinkscotland.org/thinkbusiness/articles.html?read\\_full=14397](https://www.thinkscotland.org/thinkbusiness/articles.html?read_full=14397)

Former Tory MSP to lead Scots wing of rebranded Brexit Party

Former Conservative MSP Michelle Ballantyne is to lead the Scottish wing of Reform UK - the party set up as a rebrand of the Brexit Party.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-55617824>

Jesus' forgotten brother rediscovered as Christ's story rewritten

JESUS CHRIST's forgotten brother, James, led a movement spreading Christ's work following his crucifixion, despite claims Paul the Apostle led the charge, a documentary asserted.

Read more at:

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/weird/1383052/jesus-christ-religion-christianity-history-jerusalem-paul-apostle-james-gospels-spt>

Age of Aquarius: When does the Age of Aquarius begin?

THE Age of Aquarius was first made famous by The Fifth Dimension in 1969 with their hit single by the same name. But are we really at the dawn of the Age of Aquarius

Read more at:

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/weird/1381657/age-of-aquarius-when-begin-aquarius-astrology-zodiac-evg>

INTERVIEW: Cerys Matthews on her passion for Burns and why we all need radio more than ever

Cerys Matthews is deep in conversation about her new poetry album when she suddenly begins reciting her favourite Robert Burns verse in her distinctive Welsh accent.

Read more at:

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/interview-cerys-matthews-on-her-passion-for-burns-and-why-we-all-need-radio-more-than-ever/>

World leaders speak out against Twitter suspending Trump's account

World leaders are coming forward to blast Twitter's suspension of President Trump's account, with many of them calling it outright censorship and a decision that should be left up to the citizens and not a private tech company.

Read more at:

<https://nypost.com/2021/01/12/merkel-world-leaders-speak-out-against-trumps-twitter-ban/>

Trumps New Brand

I think I can say with some certainty that, to paraphrase the legendary villain Fu Manchu: The world shall hear from Trump again.

Read more at:

<https://www.scottishreview.net/RonnieSmith553a.html>

Heavy snow to blitz Britain for 16 DAYS as -12C Scandinavian freeze hits

Cold Arctic air currently being pushed into Scandinavia and Russia from the polar vortex is forecast to make its way towards the UK over the coming days. Scotland is also bracing for heavy snow over a 16 day period from today until Friday, January 29, according to WXXCHARTS's snow depth models.

Read more at:

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/weather/1383992/UK-snow-forecast-cold-weather-January-ice-snow-warning-met-office-snowing-chart-winter>

Brexit Britain to turbocharge success in 2021 with huge trade deals outlined by Liz Truss  
BREXIT Britain will add to the huge number of trade agreements secured over the past two years in the coming months, International Trade Secretary Liz Truss has told MPs.

Read more at:

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1383979/brexit-news-trade-deal-negotiation-liz-truss-australia-new-zealand-cpttp>

How Britain can create a world-class copyright system outside the EU  
Our current copyright rules mean many orphan works are simply unusable

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/how-britain-can-create-a-world-class-copyright-system-outside-the-eu>

## Electric Canadian

350 Years of the HBC (Hudson's Bay Company)

From Canada's History at:

<https://www.canadashistory.ca/explore/business-industry/350-years-of-the-hbc>

Hector My Dog, His Autobiography

By Egerton R. Young (1905) (pdf)

A great story especially if you have a dog. Read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/hectormydog.pdf>

For the Flag

Or Lays and Incidents of The South African War BY Mrs. MacLeod (1901) (pdf)

A good story and especially from a Canadian perspective which you can read at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/forces/southafrica.pdf>

Farming in Alberta (1957)

A great overview of the benefits in farming in Alberta which you can read at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/agriculture/farminginalberta1957.pdf>

City of Brantford

Birthplace of the Telephone By William Watt (1886) (pdf)

You can read this at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/ontario/CityofBrantford.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday morning - 10th January 2021

By the Rev. Nola Crewe on the honesty or lack of from our Leaders.

You can watch this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/5624-Thoughts-on-a-Sunday-Morning-10th-January-2021>

The Battle of the Bears

Life in the North Land by Egerton R. Young (1907) (pdf)

You can read this at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/battleofbears.pdf>

## Electric Scotland

Beth's Newfangled Family Tree

Hi Everyone. This section of BNFT was, for some unknown reason, just the most fun to do. Perhaps the reason is there are new things such as a new Clan Ad from Clan MacAlpine; how to get the new book by Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish (Which really sounds like a wonderful hoot!); The Great Cousin Puzzle by Bryan Mulcahy; The Great Canadian Kilt Skate; Edinburgh

Hogmanay 2020; The wisdom of Malcolm Sinclair, Earl of Caithness and Hereditary Chief of Clan Sinclair; information on how Rosslyn Chapel has fared during Covid time; the Zoom AGM of the Scottish Tartans Authority; and an amazing thing that happened to me in regards to a query. Of course, there's lots and lots more.

Tom and I have had a lovely Christmas and New Year's holiday. We enjoyed our Zoom New Year with the Kingdome of Raknar and just last Saturday had Christmas with our good friends, Steve and Debbie Smith, from Seneca, SC. Steve and Tom have been friends since grammar school. We usually see them about once or twice a month, but had not seen them this time since last March. We had a Social Distancing visit, but it was great fun just the same! We hope that all of you had memorable and happy holidays as well!

Although the vaccine for Covid-19 is now available, it will take a while to get everyone a shot. In the meantime, nothing has changed. Please be very careful and safe and patient.

Our regular "housekeeping" things: send me your new email or changed email and also send me queries. Remember that Flowers of the Forest are done at no charge. For both of those and anything else, email <bethscribble@aol.com>.

Many thanks for enjoying my publication.

Aye,  
beth

You can read this issue (February 2021 section 2) at: <https://electricscotland.com/bnft/index.htm>

The Highland Bagpipe  
Its History, Literature, and Music with some account of the Traditions, Superstitions, and Anecdotes Relating to The Instrument and Its Tunes by W. L. Manson (1901)

You can read this at:  
<https://electricscotland.com/history/bagpipe/The-Highland-bagpipe.pdf>

Robert Burns Lecture  
By John Fraser, A. M., formerly of Glasgow University (1886)

A most interesting read at: <https://electricscotland.com/burns/burnsbyfraser.htm>

The Whole Works of the Rev. Ebenezer Erskine  
By the Rev. D. Fraser in 3 volumes (1836)

Start by reading a small biography of him and then decide if you wish to learn more by reading these three volumes. You can find this at: [https://electricscotland.com/history/other/erskine\\_ebenezer.htm](https://electricscotland.com/history/other/erskine_ebenezer.htm)

Scottish Local History Forum  
Got in their January 2021 newsletter.

This forum has been going since the 1980's and I've only just learned about them so read their current newsletter at: <https://electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/clishclash>

Prevailing Prayer  
An account of the Old South chapel prayer meeting, Boston, with introduction by Norman Macleod (1859) (pdf)

I included this in part due to the Norman Macleod introduction but of course the whole book is of interest which you can read at: <https://electricscotland.com/bible/prevailingprayer.pdf>

Cairns, John  
Principal Cairns, Principle of the United Presbyterian Theological College

You can read about him at: [https://electricscotland.com/history/other/cairns\\_john.htm](https://electricscotland.com/history/other/cairns_john.htm)

Narrative of Discovery and Adventure in Africa  
From the earliest ages to the present time with illustrations of the Geology, Mineralogy, and Zoology by Professor Jameson, James Wilson, and Hugh Murray (1830) (pdf)

An interesting read which you can get to at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/africa/africanhistory.pdf>

## Story

### Old Contracts of Friendship

From the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness

In the sale catalogue of the Abertarff books and papers, which were disposed of at Inverness towards the close of last autumn, I was attracted by the entry, "Contract of friendship, Alexander Lord Lovat and John Chisholm, John Mackenzie, and Kenneth Mackenzie, 2nd May 1549 and having given a commission for the purchase of this document, I became the possessor of a rather torn and ragged half sheet of foolscap, which was folded and endorsed "Contract of mutuall frendship betwix my Lord Lovat and Jone M'Kenze of Kintail." Internally the writing was in good preservation, except where the paper was torn ; but it contained some words in which the characters and abbreviations were almost illegible. As illustrative of the state of society in the Highlands in the middle of the 16th century, it may have an interest for the Gaelic Society of Inverness, one of whose objects is to rescue from oblivion manuscripts bearing on the history of the Gaelic people. The document, which, so far as I am aware, has not hitherto been published, is as follows :—

"At Bewling ye second day of may in ye yeir of God ane thousand vc and xlix yiers it is appointit aggreit ife fynale endit betwex ane nobill & potent lord Alexander Lord frayser of Louet Johne Chessolm of Comer on ye tane part and Joline M'Kenze of Kyntail and Kennocht M'Kenze his sone and apperand ayr on ye toyr part in maner form and effect as efrt followis, that is to say ye sayd Johne M'Kenze of Kyntail and Kennocht M'Kenze his sone hes bundin and oblist yam sellHs be ye faytht and treutht in yair bodeis ye haly ewangelist tucheit corporly that yai sail defend matayne & tak afald pt wt ye sayd Lord frayser of Louet and Johne Chessolm of Comer in yair querellis quhat sumeuyr in contrar all mortall man ye autorite my Lord of huntlie ye Erie of Suthyrland & James Grant of Fruquhy allanerly exceppit And in lykwyss ye sayd Lord frayser & Johne Chessolm of Comer hes bundin & oblist yam selffis be ye faytht and treutht in yr bodeis ye haly ewangelist tucheit corporly yat yai sail defend matayne and tak afald pt wt ye sayde Johne Mckenze and Kennocht his sone in contrar all man mortall ye autorite my lord of hunt-lye & ye lard of Balnagowyn allanerle exceppit and yis band of kyndnes mayd becauss of ye tendyrnes & kyndnes qlk hes beyne abefoyr betwex or forbears ; and [for observing ?] and keeping and fulfilling of yis or band of kyndnes ye sayd Johne McKenzie and Kennocht my sone hes subscribit and selit our part hereof to remane interchengeble wt ye sayd Lord frayser and Johne Chessolm. At Bewling the yeir day effoyr wretin before yir wytness Hewehon Symson off Brigend Alexander Bayne and Sir Wylleam Dow chaplane wt wderis diueress. And in lykws ye sayds pteis abune wretin hes bundin &, oblist yair kyn freyndis [and serwands ?] in maner form as is abune wretin.

"Johne McKenzie of Kyntail wt my hand led at ye pen

"Kennocht McKenzie wt my hand led at ye pen."

Bonds of this nature seem to have been not uncommon at the period when the above contract was entered into. Law received but doubtful recognition, or at least its rule was too frequently superseded by that of might; and men who could not rely on their own strength as sufficient for their protection were glad to purchase the support of their more powerful neighbours, or exemption from their ill-will, or to strengthen the bonds of alliance with their kinsmen and friends. There seem to have been at least three distinct classes of bonds employed for these purposes.

(1) There were bonds of assurance in which one man undertook not to molest another. Thus, on 22nd October 1527, Hector Mackintosh, Captain of the Clan Chat tan, assures Ewen Alan son, Captain of the Clan Cameron, "hymeself, his kyne, party, purcheis and enyrdance, his & thare landis, gudis purcheis and enyrdance" up to "ye fest of St Anclrow nixt to come." We may feel pretty sure that Ewen Alanson would need to keep good watch after the feast of St Andrew, the 30th of November following, hut this bond secures him forty night's of peaceful sleep, so far at least as the Clan Chattan were concerned. Bonds of assurance were not always so limited in point of time. In 1593 Hugh Rose of Ivlravock received<sup>2</sup> a bond of assurance from Huntly securing him and his dependents against molestation " be ws, our army, kyn, freyndis or Allane McConill dw off Locheall, Alexr. Mc-Rennald of Gargawche, our dependaris, their serwandis, depen-daris or awaitteris wpoune thame, in ony maner of way and this assurance was to hold good till recalled.

(2) Another class of protective bond was that of manrent given by inferiors to superiors, under which protection was stipulated for, in return for a life-long obligation of military service. This seems to have been very commonly resorted to. It must not be supposed that all bonds of manrent were of this nature. Tn some the obligation was for menial service, and the stipulated return was a mere matter of wages. There has been preserved a bond of this kind in which Thomas Davidson binds himself with a servant, to serve Hugh Rose of Kilravock as a gardener for a year, and thereafter if it pleases Kilravock for the rest of his life, receiving therefor during the first year meat for himself and his servant, and four pennies each working day, with a fee of one mark for the servant for the year, and also a chamber to lodge in ; thereafter Kilravock, if he retains him, is to build him a house and give him such wages as are usually given to men of his craft. Four pennies a day, or two shillings Scots for six days work, is twopence of our money as weekly wage, while the servant's annual fee was but ls. ljd. The special feature of bonds of manrent, whether the obligations undertaken were of military or menial service, appears to be that they bound for life to a state of vassalage. They seem to be,

indeed, a relic of slavery or serfdom, the manrent service being even assignable.

When Sir Jno. Campbell, brother to Colin, 3rd Earl of Argyll, made good his claim in right of his wife, Lady Muriel Calder, to the Cawdor estates, he found himself far from home and friends. Sheriff Nicolson, quoting Gregory, gives the proverb, "Is fada an eubh o Loch Obha, 'us cobhair o Chlann O'Duibhne," as having originated at a battle in Glenlivet between Huntly and Argyll in 1594. But in the book of the Thanos of Cawdor, where the proverb is given thus, " S' fhada glaodh o Lochow ; s' fhada cobhair o chlann dhoinne " [the last word evidently misspelt], it is said to have originated in a contest for the possession of the person of Lady Muriel Calder in 1500. Campbell of Inverliver had been sent by Archibald, 2nd Earl of Argyll, to take the child from her maternal grandfather at Kilravock, and bring her to Inveraray, Argyll and Kilravock having obtained a gift of tutors dative to her, and Argyll having the ward of her marriage. Inverliver was opposed by two of her uncles, Alexander and Hugh Calder, who overtook him with a superior party at Daltullich, and, pressing him to fight, caused him to utter the ejaculation which has passed into a proverb. Whichever story is true, whether the proverb originated before or after Sir John Campbell's time, there can be little doubt that the idea it expresses, a sense of imminent danger, and of distant relief, might very well have been uppermost in the knight's mind as he took possession of his wife's heritage. It was in these circumstances that his brother, the Earl of Argyll, assigned to him in the year 1522,t " the manrent and seruice of our traist frendis, and seruandis Alexander McAllane McRoyri and Donald Gromach McDonald Gallach and all thar kyne frendis and seruandis that dependis one them, etc." Such an assignation, though rare, is said by Mr Cosmo Innes to be "not without parallel." When bonds of manrent were given by considerable personages, they may sometimes have been compelled to do so by the pressure of circumstances ; but quite as frequently such bonds had a commercial character, and were given as a quid pro quod, a return for gifts of land or other favours. The bond of the Grants in 1546, which is cited in the footnote, J was given by them in consideration of their having been infeft in liferent by Huntly in " his sex dawachs of his landis of Strathoune .... with the forest and glen of Glenawne, and keping of the hous and for-talice of Drummyne, togidder with the bailliorie of the lorschipe of Strathoune," and similarly in 1550 the Laird of Fowlis gives his bond of manrent to Huntly " for the quhilk (he says) the said nobill and mychty Lord hes giffen me his bond of mantenans, togidder with the sume of foarte pundis wsuall ruone of Scotland to be payit yeirlie induring the said space of ray lifyme." There are many bonds extant approaching in character those of manrent, but in which the obligation is not expressly stated to be for life. They are generally between persons more nearly of equal station, and they may be met with, shading imperceptibly into deeds of the next class.

(3) This third class of protective bond is that between friends and equals, of which the transcript from the Abertarff papers is a fair specimen. The chief of Kintail and his son, who were parties to it, are also parties to a much more formal agreement of a similar kind\* between them, and Campbell of Cawdor, Grant of Fruquhy, and Ross of Balnagown. This agreement, which is entered into at the Chanonry of Ross January 15-45, contains a provision that if any of the parties fail in fulfilling their part thereof, the remainder shall take part against " the brekar fray their consall." It is difficult to understand by what other sanctions such a contract could have been enforced. A bread) of its covenants could hardly have formed the ground of a civil action, not to mention that the very fact of such agreements been made, presupposed a state of society in which submission to law was uncertain. In the case of the contract between Lovat, Chisholm, and Kintail, which has been the foundation for these remarks, the covenant is affirmed with an oath on " the haly ewangel," a disregard of which might perhaps have been dealt with ecclesiastically. In 1570 Lord Lovat and Huntly entered into a contract of friendship! for the enforcement of which there is neither oath nor any other visible provision beyond the sanction which mutual interest supplied. Lovat wanted a feu farm of " the landis k names of Beowlyne with the salmond fischeing thereof," etc., and Huntley's influence is promised to obtain this for him from the Abbot of Kinloss. On the other hand, Huntly, who belonged to Queen Mary's party, had to maintain his position in the North against Lennox, who had been appointed Regent by Elizabeth, and wanting all the support he could get, he secures Lovat's aid by this agreement.

On the face of the contract between Lovat and Chisholm "on the tane part," and the two Mackenzies "on the toyr," there is nothing to show why it was entered into, nor does tradition or history so far as I am aware mention any special circumstance which called for a strengthening of alliances on the borders of Ross and Inverness at that particular juncture; and I am inclined to suppose that it may have been with some view of avenging his clan on the Macdonalds, with whom the Mackenzies had a hereditary feud, that Alexander Lord Lovat entered into this agreement. He was the son of Hugh, the fifth Lord, who with his eldest son by his first wife Ann Grant of Freuchy, and with most of his clan, fell in tight with the Macdonalds at the Battle of Blar na Leinne, on Loch-Lochy in 1544. Sir Robert Gordon says that 300 of the blood and surname of Fraser were killed at this battle, and there was a rumor spred that there was not one of the familie left alyve that was of manes state. Bot it happened by the singular benefite of God, that they left their wyffs with chyld when they went to the feight : by which meanes that familie wes afterwards raised and restored." But as yet five years only had elapsed : the Frasers who, in the interval, had come to man's estate could not have been very numerous, and their Chief might be willing enough to strengthen himself by alliances whether for defence or for vengeance.

Another explanation of this contract may be that it was a token of reconciliation between Lovat and Kintail. Hugh, Master of Lovat, who had been killed at Loch-Lochy, was a son of Ann Grant of Freuchy, and tradition says was left at home intentionally by his father, who did not wish his life endangered. But stung by the taunts of his step-mother, Janet Ross of Balnagown, who wished the succession opened to her own son (the Lovat of this contract), the Master followed his father, and with him lost his life. It might very well be, therefore, that the Grants of Freuchy felt some coldness towards the young Lovat and his mother. John Mackenzie of Kintail was married to one of these Grants (a daughter of John, the tenth laird, says the historian of the Mackenzies), and if so a sister of the deceased Anne Lady Lovat, and aunt of Hugh, who was the victim of his stepmother's taunts. There was thus a reason for coldness between the two families of Lovat and Kintail, which were, nevertheless, closely allied by blood—John of Kintail's



mother having been a daughter of Hugh, 3rd Lord Lovat; and it is not unnatural to suppose that as this contract was "made because of the tenderness and kindness which has been before betwixt our forbears," so it bore witness to the close of a temporary estrangement.

This would seem to be the most reasonable explanation, were it not for the introduction of Chisholm as a party to the deed. I have been unable to trace any near connection by blood between him and either Lovat or Kintail, and though there had been early alliances between their families, I think he must have been here conjoined with Lovat, rather because his lands, lying interspersed among those of the Frasers, the interests of the two families as regards defence from aggression were inseparable. The contract thus receives the colour of a defensive alliance rather than that of a deed of reconciliation. It may have been both; and the reservation by the Mackenzies of their freedom in the case of quarrel between Lovat and Grant, shows that if there had been a reconciliation between these families, doubts were felt as to its permanence.

The reservations made by each of the parties to the contract are not without interest. Both admit a prior allegiance to "ye authorite," i.e. the Crown, and to "my Lord of Huntly." Huntly was at this time Chancellor of the Kingdom and Earl of Moray, and at a previous time had been her Majesty's Lieutenant-General for the North of Scotland; but "ye authorite" having been already "exceptit," it is evident that Huntly here stands for himself, and not for the Crown. AVhen during the Queen's minority, he held the Lieutenancy of the Northern parts of Scotland, he had obtained a general bond from the nobility and barons of the North,\* pledging them to obedience, and to maintenance of the law, and among the names attached to it are those of Lovat, Chisholm, and John Mackenzie of Kintail. Possibly this bond was regarded as one personal to Huntly, but unless his distinctive qualities and hereditary position had secured for him the attachment of the Highland Chiefs, one can hardly suppose that it would have been long regarded as of perpetual obligation.

The Mackenzies further exempt from their part of the agreement the Earl of Sutherland and Grant of Freuchy. The cause for this last has been already mentioned, and Kintail was bound by a bond of manrent of 1545 to the Earl of Sutherland.

On his part, besides the Crown and Huntly, Lovat only excepts from the contract his mother's relative, the Laird of Balnagown.

The document, signed by the Mackenzies, is described as "our part hereof," showing that there was a counterpart signed by Lovat and Chisholm to remain with the Mackenzies. Neither John nor Kenneth Mackenzie could write their own names, a rather unusual circumstance in persons of their degree at that period.

In a deed, cited by Mr Fraser-Mackintosh, of the 9th August 1550, we find the names of the witnesses Hugh Simsonne and William Dow, and we learn that Brigend was Easter Kinmylies, near Inverness.

Perhaps some members of the Society may know where the Brig stood. In a document of this sort there is some interest in filling up local details, and a local association is peculiarly fitted for doing it; but it is as illustrating the nature of social relations in Inverness-shire three centuries ago, that I have brought this interesting contract of friendship under the notice of the Gaelic Society of Inverness; and I hope it may be considered a not unsuitable contribution to the Society's Transactions.

END

And that's it for this week and hope you all have a great weekend.

Alastair