

Major G.J.N. Logan-Home versus Scotland's People.

Anyone who delves into the genealogical history of the Logan family will be aware of at least 3 prominent characters: Sir Robert Logan of Restalrig in Edinburgh; Gilliegorm the highland chieftain and Major G.J.N. Logan-Home. They're an eclectic trio. Sir Robert owned the enigmatic Fast Castle in the late 16th C; and was enmeshed in a legendary plot to kidnap James VI of Scotland. Gilliegorm certainly exists in myth but to a genealogist he's a legend in the old-fashioned sense of the word.

However, Logan-Home is much more tangible. He was born at Broomhouse in Berwickshire on 30th January 1855 and after distinguished military service he set out to write a history of the Logan Clan which was published by George Waterston & Sons Ltd of Edinburgh in 1934. It's difficult to assess just how many copies of '*History of the Logan Family*' were produced but suffice to say that it's a rare book nowadays.

When I began my researches into my own family in Ross-shire the book seemed an obvious place to look; but after several years of searching bookshops and the internet, I had to visit the British Library in London just to get my hands on a copy. There under the baleful scrutiny of the security staff I paid and queued and queued and paid to photocopy *chapter XXIV: Logan's of Druimdeurfit Ross-shire*.

When I got home I tried to tease the facts from the flowery text, so as to enter them in my copy of Family Tree Maker. Luckily I started a new file entitled 'Historic Logans'. Although my own family resided within 5 miles of Druimdeurfit (I'll use L-H's spelling of the property for clarity) I could see no obvious link. Worse still, as I delved deeper into the records (by using the excellent Scotland's People web site and the HFHS publications) errors of fact began to appear in the book's text. Eventually I pushed 'Historic Logans' to the back of the hard drive and carried on with my own paper trail.

Then in August this year my darling daughter bought me a copy of Mclan & Logan's book '*Clans of the Scottish Highlands*'. After reading it I renewed my previously abortive attempt to purchase the Logan-Home book meeting with immediate and surprising success. A bookseller in Inverness was asking a lot of money for a copy but knowing that the volume was more elusive than Gilliegorm in a coastal haar, I bought it. Having the book in front of me spurred me on to revisit my original file and to compare the author's account with the huge amount of data on my personal family history file. The latter is not a place for fantasy. The evidence needed to make linkages between individuals has to be factually compelling, however convenient it might be to act on conjecture.

So what did I find and why am I writing this article about it? Well I found that Logan-Home's chapter XXIV and the subsequent XXV were riddled with mistakes rendering those chapters virtually useless to the serious genealogist. In the course of writing this, I frequently found myself confused; just as the book's author must have been. The Scottish patronymic naming system and the paucity of reliable written records prior to 1841 must have made the good major's job almost impossible in the 1930's. The mistake he made, in my opinion, was to take family evidence as verbatim with fact. In his defence, he had neither computer programme, nor the huge resources on the internet, but I hope that this article of mine will help to set his record straight.

[Logan-Home text on page 200.](#)

Robert Logan 35th of Druimdeurfit, born there 1704, became a merchant. When he retired he lived at Druimdeurfit and farmed the old family estate. He married Isobel Forbes, whose tomb is at Kilmuir Wester Kirkyard. He died 1780. He had 1 son who succeeded him.

Other evidence:

1) Highland Family History Society M.I. Kilmuir Burial Ground, p 10 No 304,
[Flat Stone] "This stone is placed in the memory of Robert Logan, sometime farmer & merchant in Drumderfit who died 2nd Jan 1780 aged 76 yrs.; also his wife Isabel Forbes."

2) OPR from AVOCH /ROSS AND CROMARTY 059/00 0010 0159

"At Miltown 20th November 1730. Robert Loban (note spelling) was handfasted with Isobel Forbes lawful daughter to Robert Forbes tax collector in Miltown. Cautioners for the man Alex Loban his brother and for the woman William Forbes her uncle."
There follows text elucidating a penalty of £40 Scots in the event of breach of promise by either party.

Searches of Scotlands People under deaths & burials, as well as births and baptisms reveal no additional evidence. So there's little to quarrel with in Logan-Home's text. Yet, the alternative spelling Loban is not mentioned and nor is Robert's brother Alexander. Additionally, Isobel's father was a tax collector in Miltown. *Watson's* – 'Place names in Ross & Cromarty' lists 4 Miltown entries in the parishes of Resolis, Contin, Alness and, the most likely candidate Kilmuir Easter.

However it is with Robert and Isobel's 'only' son Thomas that Logan-Home comes seriously off the rails. He states on page 200:

Thomas Logan 36th of Druimdeurfit, born there 1750. He, like his father, was a merchant, and afterwards settled at Druimdeurfit and farmed it. It had, however,

been previously sold to the Mackenzies of Kilcoy. He married three times. First, Ann Munro, secondly, Margaret Fraser, and thirdly, Catherine Fraser. He died in 1807. On his tombstone is recorded: "He is the 36th Generation of Logans, son after father resident at Druimdeurfit." The tombs of Robert (35th) and his wife Isobel Forbes, and those of his son Thomas and his three wives, are flat stones close to the SE corner of the old ruined chapel at Kilmuir Wester Kirkyard, near Kessock.

One has to say that commas were not in short supply on Logan-Home's typewriter.

Other evidence:

Wikipedia cites: "As a general estimate, thirty years can also be used as an average generation length for humans." On this basis 36 generations represent 1080 years, taking the Logan occupancy of Druimdeurfit back to 670 A.D. Even if the more fecund estimate of 25 years was used, we return to a date of 860 A.D. Given that Logan-Home's first chapter is sub-titled 'Earliest Logans' 1150 to 1394 here is evidence of either a lack of arithmetical consideration or, even worse, the absence of essential rigour in cross-checking anecdotal evidence.

3) Highland Family History Society M.I. Kilmuir Burial Ground, p 10 No 303,
[Flat stone] *In memory of Thomas LOGAN merchant & tenant, Drumderfit, interred here, said to be the generation son after father to rent there, who died 18th Jan 1807 = 57 yrs and his three wifes, Anne MUNRO, Margaret FRASER, Catherine FRASER.*

Not only are there subtle differences in the wording from the book's text but it is vital to note that the HFHS have not included a numerical value before the key-word 'generation'. The space shown above is my insertion to highlight that omission. It's possible that the 36 generations came about from a careless misreading of a worn digit (1 for 3) and that 6 decades later when the HFHS survey was undertaken the digits had disappeared completely? One also has to say that 'said to be' and 'rent there' don't carry quite the same status as "He is" and "resident" although the meanings are not wildly different!

Moving on to Thomas's marriages if we examine:

4) *OPR banns & marriage 073/00 0010 0171 – Register of marriages for 1800.*
"May 7th Thomas Logan mercht Drumdurfit in this parish Fraser Belmaduthy also in this parish."

It can be seen that this marriage is to one of the Fraser women mentioned by Logan-Home, but which one? Thorough searching of the Scotland's People website between 1770 and 1808 reveals no further evidence of marriage certificates for another Fraser or Ann Munro. Unusual for such a well-to-do man not to have his marriage recorded? Perhaps we can elucidate more by examining Thomas's children and grandchildren.

Logan-Home states that: "Thomas had 2 sons". Robert, the eldest, 37th of Druumdeurfit...Duncan (Generation 37), the second son, born at Druumdeurfit." The 1841 census shows the following:

KNOCKBAIN		/ROSS AND CROMARTY		073/00 002/00 013	
1	Duncan Logan		Farmer		4
	Margt do	65			4
	John do	30			4
	Alex do	10			4
	Margt Binnet	25	J. S.		4
	John Donald Macrae	10	J. S.		4
1	Duncan Logan	65			4

The Duncan (37) who is shown as 60 (NB ages were rounded to nearest 5 years in this first census) would have been born about 1781 and which would fit as the first child of Thomas(36) who, we can infer, would be aged at around 31. N.B. I cannot link the second, solitary, 65 year old Duncan into this family.

Logan-Home states that Duncan (Gen. 37) was a farmer occupying the farm of Ballnoe and then confusingly:

"(1) Duncan (Gen. 38), who succeeded his father (Duncan Gen. 37) in Ballnoe, married Margaret MacDonald by whom he had 3 sons and 2 daughters: Evan; John; Donald; Margaret and Isabella."

5) OPR Marriages 073/0010 0172 in the parish of Knockbain 1800:

"July 31st Duncan Logan farmer Muirance (Muirends is close to Drumderfit) and Margt McDonald both in this parish."

If Logan-Home were correct, Duncan (38) would be marrying Margaret McDonald before his own father was 20 years old. This is obviously nonsense and yet another example of sloppy genealogy. What must have been the case is that Thomas's son Duncan (37) married Margaret McDonald in 1800 when he was 19 or 20 years old and then fathered John during the next 11 years (1806 in actuality). Alex is too young to be Margaret's son (she would need to have given birth at 50 years of age), so we need to examine all the other known children of Duncan (37) and Margaret.

Kenneth is the first (*OPR births 073/00 0010 0082 Knockbain*) and his birth date of 1st June 1801 immediately raises the matter that Margaret was around 3 months pregnant when she married her 19 year old beau. The records show that the couple went on to have 8 further children at roughly 2 year intervals until 1818 when Janet was born on 19th November (*OPR births 073/00 0010 0155 Knockbain*). Most were born at Muirends. By the time Janet was born her mother must have been approaching the end of her reproductive cycle so Alex Logan b. 1831 looks like a visitor to the household on census night.

So what has that established? Thomas (36) was born about 1750 and according to his gravestone died 18th Jan 1807. He was married to a woman whose surname was Fraser 7th May 1800. We have explored details of his son Duncan (37) who was born about 1781. What we have not yet explored is his relationship with Margaret Fraser by whom he had 5 children. The details of 3 of these children cannot be found by accessing Scotland's People OPR Births & Baptisms for the parish of Knockbain and searching under Thomas Logan. The two exceptions are John who was baptised 18 Apr 1795 and Margaret baptised 22 Nov 1797.

Rather the existence of the other 3 is confirmed by death certificates. Fortunately, those Statutory Register documents show not just the death details, time & place etc, but names of both parents, including the mother's maiden name, and the age of the deceased. Extrapolating backwards from that we can deduce the following: Isabella b.1783; Barbara b.1785; Robert b.1791.

6) *Highland Family History Society M.I. Kilmuir Burial Ground, p 21 No 812, [Pointed] In memory of the children of Thomas LOGAN merchant & tenant in Drumderfit, interred in these three graves. Thomas 1798: John 1803: Alexander 1804: Anne 1805.*

Thus we are now in a position to tabulate Thomas's (Gen 37) 9 children (**Table 1**).

D.o.B.	Name	Source	Mother
Abt. 1781	Duncan	Census 1841	
Abt. 1783	Isabella	SR deaths	Margaret Fraser
Abt. 1785	Barbara	SR deaths	Margaret Fraser
Abt. 1791	Robert	SR deaths	Margaret Fraser
18/4/1795	John	OPR births	Margaret Fraser
22/11/1797	Margaret	OPR births	Margaret Fraser
Bef. 1798	Thomas	HFHS M.I.	
Bef 1804	Alexander	HFHS M.I.	
Bef 1805	Anne	HFHS M.I.	

We cannot say for certain when Thomas, Alexander and Anne were born because they only show up on the *M.I. of the HSHS (6)* and we must presume that those dates are when they died. This because we know John was born in 1795 and then presumably died aged 8 years.

Because 5 children are accredited to Margaret Fraser before the OPR marriage in 1800 it is probable that the unnamed woman on the certificate was Catherine Fraser. Perhaps Margaret died and Thomas married her sister, although searches for Fraser families with daughters named Margaret and Catherine born during the appropriate period show no conclusive results.

As far as the children are concerned Thomas died, and Duncan was born, before the marriage to Catherine; making it likely that their mother was Ann Munro, the first wife; although there is a gap between Barbara and Robert and another one between Robert and John. Anyway it seems that Logan-Home did get the order of the wives correct: Ann followed by Margaret then Catherine.

If he got that right, he made a complete Horlicks of Thomas's (36) son Robert who was not the eldest boy. Nor did he die at Drumdurfit, I quote:

Page 201:

Robert Logan, resided at Druimdeurfit, 37th generation of Logan's there, succeeded his father in 1807. He, like his father, farmed the old family property. He died there and is buried with the rest of the family in Kilmuir Wester Kirkyard. He was succeeded by his son Robert Logan, 38th of Druimdeurfit. He also farmed the estate. His wife, who survived him, lived on in the house there for many years. Besides his son Robert, he had a daughter, Barbara, who married Captain Cameron, who farmed Balnakyle on the Kilcoy Estate.

Robert Logan 39th of Druimdeurfit, succeeded his father. He became a banker in London and is mentioned by James Logan in his *Scottish Clans*, as Chief of the Highland branch of the family. He lived at Druimdeurfit in 1848, and afterwards in Inverness.

Then continuing on page 202:

Robert Logan 40th of Druimdeurfit, born there 8 October 1848 was educated at the Academy, Inverness, and afterwards at London University.

At last we have a date that we can check. Both Roberts can be found on the *1851 census documentation 098/00 023/00 023*. The address is 11 Telford Street, Inverness and includes 2 female servants one 33 years old and one of 14. Robert senior is shown aged 58 and his little son is just 3. That would give respective birth years as 1793 and 1848. Robert junior's baptism is recorded at Knockbain on 8th December 1847 (*OPR 073/00 0020 0116*), so that fits well. As to his father he is most certainly the son of Thomas (Gen.36) and Margaret Fraser who we surmised was born in 1791.

Goodness only knows how Logan-Home managed to introduce 3 generations into the time frame of 40 years (between 1807 when Thomas (36) and would have been old enough to father children, to the birth of the 3 year old boy living in Inverness in 1851). Perhaps the fact that Thomas (36) was 54 years old when he fathered Robert clouded the author's judgement. In the 1861 census the two males show up again at 8 Waterloo Place, Inverness and again the only female member of the household is a servant (not the same one in case you're wondering!).

So who was the mother of Robert (37)? The answer lies with *OPR 073/00 0020 0116 Knockbain births & baptisms*.

"Robert Logan Esq Druimdurfit and Helen Gray had a child born on the 8th of October last and baptised by the Rev. R. Williamson on the 8th December 1847 named Robert."

So far I can find no further information about Helen.

This leaves just one loose end to tie up in Logan-Home's text. Sadly it's another mistake. In the text on page 201 the Barbara who married Captain Cameron was the daughter of Thomas & Margaret and brother to Robert (37), not a daughter of a 38th generation which didn't exist. She died at Viewbank Cottage, Knockbain on 10th Sept 1875, in common with so many nonagenarians a fractured thigh bone proved to be a mortal injury.

The next chapter in the book begins on page XXV and is titled The Logans of Achtertyre. It begins on page 205 by reiterating the story of Thomas (36) that we examined above. He reiterates the mistake of saying Thomas had just the 2 sons, when, as we have seen in **table 1** above, he had 9 children. He asserts that Thomas's son Duncan (37) had 3 sons: Duncan, Murdoch and Donald plus one daughter Isabella. In fact Duncan had 9 children 5 boys and 4 girls. He goes on to say that Isabella (1814-97) married John Forbes in Liverpool, when she was married to a Ross-shire farmer Peter MacIntosh. *OPR Knockbain 073/00 0020 0214 2nd February 1843*.

Moving on to the sons; Murdoch is alleged to have died unmarried and I can find no record of his death. Duncan (37) did not have a son called Duncan. The fourth child of page 205 was indeed Donald - b. 10-09-1811 - who married Margaret McKenzie and sired 13 children. Then continuing on a page that lends itself to confusion, the author writes flowery details concerning the non-existent Duncan's marriage to a relative of the English Prime Minister W.E. Gladstone. He accredits Duncan with 2 sons and 1 daughter.

The account of eldest David start on page 205 and continues with quite a lot of inconsequential detail until quarter way down page 206:

Whilst on a walking tour with his friend....etc, they received hospitality from Mr Andrew Linton, at Achnagart, Kintail and there he met his future wife, Margaret Linton....born at Langhaugh, Peebles in 1820.... she married him when she was 19.

And later halfway down the page:

He died at Achertyre in August 1887, greatly respected by all who knew him. His wife died 8th March 1909 aged 89.

Checking those details we find the following from *SR Death Certificate 074/00 0004*. Margaret did indeed die at Achertyre, Lochalsh from influenza and bronchitis on the date mentioned and she was 89 years old. She was the widow of David and the daughter of Andrew Linton & Mary Inglis. So we know that we have the correct Margaret. Logan-Home goes into a lot of detail about the couple's children and suffice to say that I have enough details to know that this is indeed the same family but what of David himself?

David and his family show up on successive census's between 1851 and 1881 but not 1891, so let's check for a death certificate for 1887. *SR death Lochalsh 074/00 0018* will be the one! David married to Margaret Linton died 1st August 1887 from chronic cystitis and prostratitis (prostate cancer probably). That's that then? *Not likely!* David's parents are shown as Alexander Logan (a deceased meal miller) and Annie Davidson not Donald Logan and Anne Robinson as Logan-Home would have it. Just when you think you've unravelled fact from fiction, a whole new fairytale needs unravelling.

From my researches I have a coherent family forward in time from David and Margaret and their 9 children all of whom are mentioned in rambling fashion on pages 206-9. Going backwards from David, who was the 9th child out of a brood of 12, we find the eldest (Jane) born in 1789 and the youngest (Anne) in 1812; a span of 23 years. Ann Davidson must have been a bonny lass. We can surmise that she was born no later than 1771 (18 years old at Jane's birth) and was still alive to give birth to Anne on 24th June 1812. There are no suitable candidates for Ann in the OPR's using those criteria.

Her husband Alexander is just as difficult. He was a master carpenter and meal miller also a miller at Yairhead, Munloch. It's within a mile of Druimdeurfit! He is typical of so many progenitors of families that I have in my database. He was born between 1750 and 1790. I can trace his children and their descendants but not his parents. Furthermore the circumstantial evidence that confirms his existence is seldom enough to place him within the context of his family. Accordingly I have dozens of men and women who must be brothers, sisters or cousins but I cannot link them. It's very frustrating.

Perhaps readers will have some suggestions as to how to link up the families. DNA testing would help to establish a tenuous link. So if your surname is Logan and you can trace your family back to the 18th C. in an unbroken male line send me an email on predecimal@aol.com. Alternatively if you have Logan relatives in Ross-shire and wish to know more about them, I may be able to help.

As to Logan-Home we mustn't judge him too harshly, he was a product of his age and military background. It's evident from the way he writes; he wanted to establish a valorous history for all members of the family and if the facts weren't easily available to fit in with his ideals then he didn't try to unearth them very assiduously.