



# INDEX TO OLD-LORE MISCELLANY

OF ORKNEY SHETLAND CAITHNESS  
AND SUTHERLAND

by  
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# CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
Introduction	1
Conversion Table	3
Author Index	5
Subject Index	15
Round-up County by County	20
Portraits	22
Obituaries	24



## INTRODUCTION

This index is intended to supplement the one that I compiled some years ago for the *Old-Lore Series*, which consisted of the contents lists for the 75 numbers strung together one after another. This present index has a more thematic approach and covers the *Old-Lore Miscellany* only, which was issued in 10 volumes between 1907 and 1946, forming the major sub-series of the aforementioned *Old-Lore Series*.

The master index is the AUTHOR INDEX. Entries are arranged under each author in order of publication and not in the more customary alphabetical order. Original contributions are listed first, followed by edited or compiled pieces for which I have not been able to find an alternative heading. Where edited works have been entered under their own headings, cross-references are provided from the editor. A number of articles were published anonymously and these are listed at the end under the heading [Anon.]. It may be possible to guess at the authorship of some of these, but I have not thought it right to commit myself. I have, however, silently expanded initials where the authorship is probably not in dispute. Where I have not been able to allocate an identity to initials I have entered the article under the final element, as is standard practice in library catalogues. Similarly, I have entered pseudonymous articles under the pseudonyms—necessarily, as I do not know the writers' identities! (In this context, incidentally, I have treated 'X.' as a pseudonym rather than as an anonym.)

The publication history of the *Old-Lore Series* is fairly nightmarish. Not only did it comprise three separate sub-series, each with its own volume and part numbers, but the *Miscellany* tended to publish material in easily-digested gobbets rather than as a full meal—each 'gobbet' sometimes being only one or two pages long. Citations, therefore, can be very convoluted—one contribution was published in 12 parts; another in 11. For this reason, I have abbreviated references to a simple statement of volume number followed by pages. For those who wish to have a more complete bibliographical reference, I have provided, before the author index, a conversion table. This converts vol. + pages to part number, date of publication and running number within the overall series (which is necessary for ordering numbers from the Viking Society). Thus, the first item in the author index, whose reference is 10:232, converts to v. 10, pt 5 (1943), being no 73 in the *Old-Lore Series*.

Each item in the author index has an index number, which is printed in bold at the end of the entry. These are used for reference purposes in the SUBJECT INDEX, which is a simple alphabetical one, using specific rather than general terms as far as possible. I have avoided purely geographical headings, except in one case, where the matter was too broad to be easily summed up in a term that was not in itself so vague as to be virtually useless. Nor have I made use of subdivisions except in a few cases, where they seemed necessary. Most entries are simply not extensive enough for such frills. Some contributions were not in the nature of what might be termed 'learned articles' but were narratives in the native dialect. I have concocted the subject heading 'Stories in dialect' for these and also indexed them under their subjects. In this way, those interested in dialects can pinpoint them easily. It is not my intention to suggest that they are, in any way, less valid than more learned-seeming contributions. Linking cross-references, in the index, will, I hope, send users from one subject heading to another related one.

To compensate for the lack (largely) of geographical references in this index I have added (hastily) a round-up of material under each county, using broader headings than those used in the main index, which may be useful to those searching for topics on a more general plane, such as history or literature. This is by way of being an experiment and I am not sure if it will work or not. I hope it does.

The work is completed by a PORTRAIT INDEX and an INDEX TO OBITUARIES. I have nothing much to say about these, except that I have added dates to the names in the portrait index, where I could discover them, with one, obvious, exception. This is intended both as an aid in identifying folk with the same name and to assist any user who may be searching for portraits from a particular era. I have not provided dates in the index of obituaries as it is to be assumed that the subjects would be contemporaneous with the dates of their obituaries.

The *Old-Lore Series* was very much the brainchild of Alfred Johnston, the Society's founder, and I would like to dedicate this index to the *Miscellany*, issued as it is in the Society's centenary year, to his memory.

## ABBREVIATIONS

comp.	compiled
ed.	edited
front.	frontispiece
trans.	translated
transcr.	transcribed

## CONVERSION TABLE

<i>Vol.</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Part</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Series</i>
1.	1-50	1	Jan. 1907	1
	51-82	2	Apr. 1907	2
	83-112	3	Jul. 1907	3
	113-142	4	Oct. 1907	4
	143-196	5	Jan. 1908	5
	197-240	6	Apr. 1908	6
	241-292	7	Jul. 1908	7
	293-340	8	Oct. 1908	8
2.	1-64	1	Jan. 1909	9
	65-126	2	Apr. 1909	11
	127-190	3	Jul. 1909	14
	191-254	4	Oct. 1909	17
3.	1-64	1	Jan. 1910	20
	65-128	2	Apr. 1910	23
	129-192	3	Jul. 1910	24
	193-256	4	Oct. 1910	25
4.	1-64	1	Jan. 1911	26
	65-112	2	Apr. 1911	29
	113-160	3	Jul. 1911	31
	161-208	4	Oct. 1911	32

<i>Vol.</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Part</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Series</i>
5.	1-48	1	Jan. 1912	33
	49-96	2	Apr. 1912	34
	97-144	3	Jul. 1912	36
	145-192	4	Oct. 1912	37
6.	1-64	1	Jan. 1913	39
	65-112	2	Apr. 1913	41
	113-160	3	Jul. 1913	42
	161-208	4	Oct. 1913	43
7.	1-48	1	Jan. 1914	46
	49-96	2	Apr. 1914	47
	97-144	3	Jul. 1914	49
	145-192	4	Oct. 1914	51
8.	1-64	1	Jan. 1915	53
	65-112	2	Apr. 1915	54
	113-160	3	Jul. 1915	55
	161-208	4	Oct. 1915	56
9.	1-72	1	1921	59
	73-120	2	1929	65
	121-200	3	Oct. 1931	66
	201-256	4	Oct. 1933	67
10.	1-32	1	1935	68 <sup>1</sup>
	33-78	2	1936	69 <sup>2</sup>
	79-142	3	1938	70
	143-186	4	1940	71
	187-234	5	1943	73
	235-292	6	1946	74
	293-321	7	1946	75

<sup>1</sup> Issued with *Saga-Book XI 2*

<sup>2</sup> Issued with *Saga-Book XI 3*



## AUTHOR INDEX

- Andersson, Otto, *transcr.***  
 'Scalloway lasses.' [Musical score] 10:232. 1
- Barron, Evan M.**  
 Robert the Bruce in Orkney, Caithness and Sutherland. 2:90-94.  
 [Comments—4:14] 2
- Beaton, D.**  
 An interesting Caithness church record. [Canisby] 4:173-79. 3  
 The new Gaelic dictionary and the strenuous labours of the compilers.  
 5:24-28. [Comments—5:52,111] 4  
 Folk-lore notes from John O'Groats; being extracts from the kirk-  
 session records of Canisby. 5:59-63,129-34. 5  
 The Rev. John Morison, Minister of Canisby, Caithness, 1780-98.  
 5:166-74; 6:50-61. 6  
 Early christian monuments of Caithness. 6:75-85,119-29,195-201. 7  
 Genealogical bibliography of Caithness and Sutherland. 9:100-09. 8  
 Some eighteenth-century Latheron surnames, etc. 10:52-54. 9
- Bruce, R. Stuart**  
 Some old-time Shetland wrecks. 1:35-42,123-28,176-78,217-20,281-  
 85,308-09; 2:31-33,101-04; 3:34-35,164-65; 5:20-24,73-78.  
 [Comments—1:87-89, 121-22] 10  
 Glimpses of Shetland life, 1778-1753. [From Thomas Gifford's letter  
 book] 5:156-59; 6:31-37,92-101,129-35; 8:84-87. 11  
 Jean Bart Thurot in Shetland. 9:110-18. 12  
 Dutch whalers at Orkney and Shetland. 9:128-33. 13  
*see also 27, 37-38, 100.*
- Buttrose, Mrs F. Murray**  
 Stewart family record. 10:197-200. 14
- Charlton, Edward**  
 A visit to Shetland in 1832. 3:159-61,212-16; 4:25-29,88-90,127-  
 29,187-92; 6:110,139-40,188-92; 7:16-27,123-31,151-54; 8:79-  
 84,122-28,186-99. 15

- Journal of an expedition to Shetland in June, July and August 1834. Ed. by A. W. Johnston. 9:37-45,188-200,252-56; 10:1-7,55-71,123-40,153-62,201-31. 16
- Clark, W. Fordyce**  
A legend of St Ola's Kirk. 4:130-33. 17
- Clouston, J. Storer**  
The odal families of Orkney. 1:27-32; 2:155-62,227-34. [Comments—3:136,201-02] 18  
A note on an odal family. [Cursetter] 1:135-36. 19  
Townships and surnames. 2:34-37. 20  
The Battle of Summerdale. 2:95-100 21  
Orkney surnames. 5:28-33,63-67. [Comments—5:111-12,153-54; 6:9-10] 22
- Collingwood, W. G.**  
A legend of Shetland from Fljótsdæla saga. 1:72-77,96-105. 23  
The ballad of Hildina. 1:211-16 24
- D., L. D.**  
Ackergill Tower, Caithness. 4:41-44. [Comment—4:65-66] 25
- Darraðaljóð**  
Darraðaljóð. Ed. and trans. by Eiríkr Magnússon. 3:78-94. 26
- De Balbian Verster, J. F.**  
The 'capture' of Shetland, 1667. With notes by R. Stuart Bruce. 8:178-86. 27
- Drever, James**  
'Taboo' words among Shetland fishermen: a preliminary survey from an anthropological point of view. 10:235-40. 28
- Eiríkr Magnússon** *see* 26, 46
- Fairweather, W. C. and Meldau, R.**  
The Men of Norway contra the Men of Orkney. 10:36-42. 29
- Firth, John**  
Sheep ca'ing in Orkney. 1:307. 30  
An Orkney township before the division of the commony. [Redland in Firth] 3:152-58,203-07; 4:20-24,77-82,143-45,179-83; 5:34-38,113-16,159-63; 6:21-30,85-92,146-60,174-87; 7:30-39,115-22,154-60. 31

**Flett, Magnus**

A link with other days; or, The prophet and the wee folk. [On Davie O'Teeveth] 5:116–19 32

**Flom, George T.**

The transition from Norse to Lowland Scotch in Shetland, 1600–1850. 9:81–100. 33

**Fowler, William**

Two Jacobean sonnets written in Orkney. With notes by A. Francis Steuart. 1:25–26. 34

**Fynes-Clinton, William**

Bauta-steinn Magnúss helga Eyja-Jarls. Cenotaph to S. Magnus, Earl of Orkney. 10:148–52. 35

**Gifford, Thomas, Laird of Busta**

Scattald marches of Unst in 1771. With notes by A. W. Johnston. 3:100–02,162–63,217–19; 4:33–36,91–93,192–93; 5:125–29. 36

Memorial anent a trial of herring fishing upon the coast of Zetland. With notes by R. Stuart Bruce. 6:193–95. 37

A further memorial anent the rents of Zetland, the property of the Rt Hon. the Earl of Morton. With notes by R. Stuart Bruce. 7:177–82. 38

**Goudie, Gilbert**

Baron Rosencrantz and the Shetland Mowats. 2:152–53. 39

Old charters and papers. 3:42–43. 40

Gifford's historical description of the Zetland Islands: its history and misfortunes. 4:30–32. 41

Shetland folk-lore—further tales. 5:16–20. 42

*see also 80, 141*

**Gray, James**

The Scandinavian place-names of Sutherland. 2:213–26. 43

More Scandinavian place-names of Sutherland. 3:14–21. 44

[Addenda to both the above—3:69–70,131; 4:7–8,70,168–69; 5:54; 6:66–68. For comments, see no 71.]

The Caithness and Sutherland topography of 'William the Wanderer'. 9:33–36. 45

**Gróttasöngur**

Gróttasöngur: the song of the quern Grotte. Ed. and trans. by Eiríkr Magnússon. 3:139–50,237–53. [Comments—3:194–95] 46

**Gunn, Adam**

A review of Sutherland place-names. 3:182–87. 47

Topographical notes on Sutherland. 4:140–42. 48

**Historicus**

Some references to witchcraft and charming from Caithness church records. 2:110–15,171–72; 3:47–48. [Comments—2:193] 49

The Rev. Alexander Pope, Reay, Caithness. 3:111–15,166–69,220–23; 4:37–40,94–98. 50

**Houston, David**

'E silkie man: a story of the Pentland Firth. 2:163–67,210–12; 3:44–46. 51

**Joass, James**

Dunrobin. 2:199–201. [Comments—3:73–74; 4:15] 52

**Johnston, A.W.**

The Romans in Orkney and Shetland. 1:275–80. 53

Robertson of Newbigging, Orkney. 2:41–45. [Comments—4:13] 54

Commissariat records of Orkney: register of inventories. 2:51–55,173–75, 245–49. [Comments—4:15] 55

Sands of Swanbister, Orphir, Orkney. 3:95–97. 56

Fetlar folk in 1716. 3:103–06. 57

Bishops of Orkney during the Papal Schism, 1387–1429. 3:151. 58

Four Shetland airs. 5:79–81. [Comments—6:2–4; 9:122–23] 59

The sword-dance, Papa Stour, Shetland. 5:175–85. 60

Orkney and Shetland folk, 872–1350. 7:84–96,131–43,183–92. [Comments—8:17–21,79] 61

Rental of Brabster, Caithness, 1697. 8:4–12,73–77,199–207; 9:46–52. 62

Óðal law in Orkney and Shetland. 8:47–59. [Comments—8:78–79] 63

Joshua Johnston. 8:130. 64

- Notes on the fiscal antiquities of Orkney and Shetland. 9:53–72,133–39,234–52. 65
- Derivation of some Orkney plant-names. 10:163–73. 66
- Rentals of the crown lands and revenues of the Lordship of Shetland, c.1507–1513—c.1832. 10:262–86. 67
- (comp.) Caithness documents from the Protocol Book of David Heart. 10:16–17. 68
- see also* 16, 36
- Jón Stefánsson**
- Biarn Kolbeinsson, the skald, Bishop of Orkney, 1188–1223. 1:43–47. 69
- The authorship of Orkneyinga saga (Jarla sögur). 1:65–71. [Comments—2:24–25; 3:137] 70
- Scandinavian place-names in Sutherland. 3:234–36. [Comments on nos 43–44] 71
- Leask, J. T. Smith**
- Dividing sea-weed 100 years ago. 1:33–34. [Comments—5:4–5] 72
- An Orcadian battle, a hundred years ago. [Between the Stenness men and the Ireland men] 1:61–64 73
- Shipping peat from Orkney. 1:129–34. [Comments—1:245] 74
- Bulliers. 1:221–24. 75
- Orkney dialect. 1:317–28. 76
- Tammy Hay and the fairies. 3:28–33. 77
- How the Halcros acquired Cletyan in Stenness, Orkney. 8:38–46. 78
- How Willo o'Iver Tuack became a horseman. 9:75–81. 79
- Low, George**
- Tour through the North Isles of Orkney and parts of the Mainland of Orkney in the year 1778. Ed. by Gilbert Goudie. 8:131–54. 80
- Macdonald, Mnrdoch**
- A journey from Sutherland and Caithness to Edinburgh in 1737. Ed. by John Mowat. 10:43–52. 81
- Mackay, Angus**
- Ferchard, physician to King Robert II. 3:177–81. [Comment—3:199] 82

Notes from the Tongue Presbytery records. [With additional material by Donald Munro] 7:39-48,62-69,104-15,160-77; 8:31-38,94-97. [Comments—8:65-67] 83

**Mackinnon, James**

The legend of Dil Mac Rìgh Lochlann, Lochpooltiel, Skye. 10:33-35. 84

**Magnússon, Eiríkr** *see Eiríkr Magnússon*

**Major, Albany F.**

Rune-stones in the Brodgar Circle, Stenness. 2:46-50. 85

**Marwick, Ernest W.**

Reports of test excavations at Langskaill, St Andrews, Orkney. 10:259-61. 86

**Marwick, Hugh**

Notes on weather words in the Orkney dialect. 9:23-33. 87

**Meldau, R.** *see* 29

**Mooney, John**

Octocentenary of S. Magnus Cathedral. 10:79-122. 88

**Mowat, John**

A list of books and pamphlets relating to the North of Scotland, with special reference to Caithness and Sutherland. 2:238-42; 3:49-54,170-76,224-25; 4:45-47,99-101,151-52,201-05; 5:38-43,82-89,134-36. 89

The murder of Bailie Calder, Thurso. 4:134-39. 90

Barrogill Castle, Caithness. 7:27-29. 91

Some old Caithness customs and superstitions. 9:14-23. 92

The place-names of Canisbay, Caithness. 9:151-88. 93

Candlemas: some traditions and incidents of a Caithness fair. [Freswick] 9:225-30. 94

A Caithness shop in 1806. [Murdoch Campbell, Freswick] 9:230-33. 95

Buchollie Castle, Caithness. 10:143-47. 96

An Orkney medico of the 17th century: Mathew Mackaile, apothecary and chyrurgeon. 10:245-51. 97

Caithness folk-tales and historical incidents. 10:252-58. 98

(comp.) Some Groat records. 10:9-16. 99

**Munro, Donald** *see* 83

- Neven, Gilbert**  
 The scattald marches of Yell, Shetland, 1667. Ed. by R. Stuart Bruce.  
 9:140–48. 100
- Nicol, John**  
 Pictish tower at Salzcraggie, Helmsdale. 3:107–10. 101  
 Pictish tower at Kintradwell, Parish of Loth. 3:230–33. 102
- Nicolson, John**  
 Some old-time Shetland customs. 5:122–25. 103
- Pottinger, J.A.**  
 The selkie wife. 1:173–75. 104
- Ratter, William R., transcr. & ed.**  
 A boat song from Unst. 10:241–44. 105
- Robertson, D. J.**  
 Orkney folk-lore notes. 2:105–09. 106
- S., D.**  
 Greenie Hill and the good neighbours. 3:208–11. [Comments—  
 4:73–74] 107
- S:t Clair, Ronald**  
 Notes on some Orcadian families. 1:305–06. 108  
 Mowats of Houland, Shetland. 2:85–86. 109  
 Orcadiana. [Abstracts of Orkney and Shetland deeds] 2:176–80,243–  
 45. [Erratum—4:15] 110  
 Sinclairs of Lybster, Caithness. 3:226–29. 111  
 The Bishopric of Orkney: references to lands in Caithness. 4:17–19. 112  
 Sinclairs of Brabsterdorrان, Caithness. 4:194–200. 113
- Saxby, Jessie M. E.**  
 Shetland phrase and idiom. 1:225–32,267–74,312–16. [Comments—  
 2:25–26] 114  
 Shetland names for animals, etc. 2:168–70,235–37. 115  
 Food of the Shetlanders langsyne. 7:70–77. 116  
 Foys and fanteens (Shetland feasts and fasts). 8:22–31. [Comment—  
 9:219–20] 117
- Shand, J.**  
 Foreign coins in Shetland. 6:37–40. 118

- Size, Nicholas.**  
Click Mill at Buttermere. 10:7-9. 119
- Smith, John**  
Magnus Matches. 1:259-61. 120
- Smith, William**  
The Knights of Stove in Kirkness, Sandwick, Orkney. 5:120-21. 121  
Mansie O'Kierfa and his fairy wife. 6:19-21. 122
- Sølver, Carl V.**  
Leiðarsteinn: the compass of the vikings. 10:293-321. 123
- Spence, John**  
The days of the old Shetland sixern. 3:36-41. 124  
A peep into an Orkney township in the olden times. ['Hillside o' Birsay'] 4:183-87; 5:67-72. 125  
The Kirk o Kirkgoe and the Picky Dykes of Birsay, Orkney. 8:87-94. 126
- Spence, Magnus**  
Orkney bonfires. 1:179-86. [Comments—1:243-45,295] 127  
The past in the present: North Ronaldsey sheep. 3:22-27. 128  
Rare Orkney birds. 8:175-78. 129
- Stefánsson, Jón** *see* *Jón Stefánsson*
- Steuart, A. Francis**  
The Stewarts of Eday and Newark. 2:87-89. 130  
The garrison of the forts in Zetland. 2:208-09. 131  
Gilbert Balfour of Westray. 4:146-50. 132  
Charles Steuart. 8:128-29. 133
- see also* 34, 134-35
- Steuart, Charles**  
Orkney news from the letter-bag of Mr Charles Steuart. Ed. by A. Francis Steuart. 6:41-49,101-09. 134
- Steuart, James**  
The education of Miss Peggy Young of Castleyards. [In letters to Andrew Young of Castleyards] With notes by A. Francis Steuart. 6:141-46. 135
- Stewart, R. A. Clapperton**  
The Stewarts of Massater, Orkney. 6:202-08. 136



**Stout, George W.**

Some lost and vanishing birds of Fair Isle. 6:135–38. 137

Hoolaby Yorl and da göidfiks: some reminiscences of Fair Isle in the dialect. 8:60–64. [Comment—8:78] 138

**Taylor, George Sutherland**

Rob Doun. 4:48–52,83–87. 139

**Teit, J. A.**

Notes on the Introduction to *Orkney and Shetland Records*, vol. 1. 7:78–83. [Comments—7:99–100] 140

*see also 61*

**Thomson, Sinclair**

An adventure with the press gang in Shetland in 1805. [As told to Gilbert Goudie] 1:170–72. 141

**Traill, H. L. Norton**

The family of Groat. 9:148–51. 142

**Viking Society**

Viking Club: first annual report of the Law-Thing, April 13th, 1893. [Reprint] 10:187–94. 143

Executive officers, 1892–1943. 10:195–96. 144

**Work, Andrew L.**

The fall of Adam: an Orkney story. 2:29–30. [Comments—2:81–82] 145

**X.**

The Rev. Alexander Pitcairn and the Skipsies. 3:98–99. 146

**Young, Andrew *see 135***

**[Anon.]**

Moodies of Melsetter. 1:258,310–11. 147

Account of the New Year Song, as sung in Sanday. 1:262–66. 148

Bruces of Sumburgh, Shetland. 2:38–39. 149

Irwin, Chalderness, Tingwall. 2:40. 150

The Duchess-Countess of Sutherland. [Lady Elizabeth Sutherland, 1765–1839] 2:84–85. 151

Major-General Arthur St. Clair. 2:86–87. 152

Elphinstones of Lopness, Orkney. 2:153–54. 153

William Steuart. 2:202–03.	154
Leask of Aglath, Orkney. 2:203–07.	155
James King, Lord Eythin. 5:164–66.	156
The medieval church in Caithness and Sutherland (1136–1445) 8:98–112,154–60,167–75.	157
Orkney sasines. 10:233–34.	158

## SUBJECT INDEX

- ARCHIVES 40 55  
*see also* DEEDS; 'ORKNEY AND SHETLAND RECORDS';  
RENTALS; SASINES; SKATT
- BALFOUR, Gilbert 132
- BALLAD OF HILDINA 24
- BATTLE OF SUMMERDALE 21
- BIBLIOGRAPHIES 8 89
- BIRDS 129 137
- BJARNI KOLBEINSSON 69
- BONFIRES 127
- BROCHS 101-02
- BRUCES OF SUMBURGH 149
- BULLIERS 75
- CALDER, Laurence 90
- CASTLES 25 52 91 96
- CENOTAPH TO ST MAGNUS 35
- CHURCH HISTORY  
Orkney 58 69 88 112  
Caithness 3 6 50 157  
Sutherland 83 157
- COINS 118
- CURSETTER, family 19
- DARRADALJÓÐ 26
- DAVIE O'TEEVETH 32
- DEEDS 110
- DESCRIPTION OF SHETLAND (1733) 41
- DIALECTS  
Orkney 76 87  
Shetland 33 114  
*see also* NAMES; STORIES IN DIALECT
- DIARIES *see* JOURNALS

DIET 116

DIL MAC RIGH LOCHLANN 84

EDUCATION 135

ELPHINSTONES OF LOPNESS 153

ETHNOLOGY 61

EXCAVATIONS AT LANGSKAILL, St Andrews, Orkney 86

FAIRS 94

FAMILY HISTORY 18 108

*see also* GENEALOGY *and under the following families:* Bruces of Sumburgh; Cursetter; Moodies of Melsetter; Rosencrantz; Stewart; Stewarts of Massater.

FERCHARD, physician to King Robert II 82

FESTIVALS 117

FISHING AND FISHERMEN 13 28 37 124

FLJÓTSDÆLA SAGA 23

FOLK-LORE

Orkney 32 106–07 121–22

Shetland 42 103

Caithness 5 92 98

*see also* LEGENDS; STORIES IN DIALECT

FORTS 131

FOWLER, William 34

GAELIC DICTIONARY 4

GENEALOGY 8

*for genealogies of individual families, see under:* Elphinstones of Lopness; Groat; Irwins of Chalderness; Johnston, Joshua; King, James; Leasks of Aglath; Mowats of Houland; Sands of Swanbister; Sinclairs of Brabsterdorrán; Sinclairs of Lybster; Stewarts of Eday and Newark.

GHENT, William Joseph van, *Baron* 27

GIFFORD, Thomas, *Laird of Busta* 41

GROAT, family 68 99 142

GRÓTTASQNGR 46

HALCRO, William and Margaret 78

HEART, David 68

- HILDINA, Ballad of 24
- IRWINS OF CHALDERNESS 150
- JOHNSTON, Joshua 64
- JOURNALS  
Edward Charlton 15–16  
George Low 80  
Murdoch Macdonald 81
- KING, James, *Lord Eythin* 156
- LANGSKAILL EXCAVATIONS 86
- LEASKS OF AGLATH 155
- LEGENDS 17 23 84  
*see also* FOLK-LORE; STORIES IN DIALECT
- LETTERS  
Thomas Gifford 11  
Charles Steuart 134
- MACKAILE, Mathew 97
- MACKAY, George, '*Rob Down*' *see* ROB DOUN
- MANSIE O'KIERFA 122
- MARKETS *see* BULLIERS
- MATCHES, Magnus 120
- MILLS 119
- MONUMENTS 7 35
- MOODIES OF MELSETTER 147
- MORISON, Rev. John 6
- MOWATS OF HOULAND 39 109
- MURDER 90
- MURDOCH CAMPBELL, Stores, Freswick 95
- MUSIC 1 59  
*see also* SONGS; SWORD-DANCES
- NAMES 66 115  
Personal: *Orkney* 20 22; *Caithness* 9  
Place: *Caithness* 93; *Sutherland* 43–44 47–48 71
- NAVAL EXPEDITIONS 27
- NAVIGATION 123

- NORN *see* DIALECTS  
ODAL LAW 63  
'ORKNEY AND SHETLAND RECORDS' 140  
ORKNEYINGA SAGA 70  
PEAT 74  
PICTS 126  
    *see also* BROCHS  
PIRACY 29  
PITCAIRN, *Rev.* Alexander 146  
POPE, *Rev.* Alexander 50  
PRESS GANG 73 141  
PRIVATEERS 12  
REDLAND, Firth, Orkney 31  
RENTALS 57 62 67  
RENTS 38  
ROB DOUN (Robert Mackay) 139  
ROBERT THE BRUCE 2  
ROBERTSONS OF NEWBIGGING 54  
ROMANS 53  
ROSENCRANTZ, family 39  
RUNES 85  
ST CLAIR, Arthur 152  
ST MAGNUS 35  
ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL 88  
SANDS OF SWANBISTER 56  
SASINES 158  
SEA-WEED 72  
SHEEP 30 128  
SHOPS 95  
SINCLAIRS OF BRABSTERDORRAN 113  
SINCLAIRS OF LYBSTER 111  
SKATT 36 57 65 100

- SONGS 105 148  
STEUART, Charles 133  
STEUART, William 154  
STEWART, family 14  
STEWARTS OF EDAY AND NEWARK 130  
STEWARTS OF MASSATER 136  
STORIES IN DIALECT  
    Orkney 73 75 77–79 125 145  
    Shetland 138  
    Caithness 51  
SUMMERDALE, Battle of 21  
SUTHERLAND, *Lady Elizabeth* 151  
SWORD-DANCES 60  
TABOO WORDS 28  
THEFT 146  
THUROT, Jean Bart 12  
TOPOGRAPHY 45 48  
TRADE MARKS 29  
VIKING SOCIETY FOR NORTHERN RESEARCH 143–44  
WEATHER WORDS 87  
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES 65  
WHALERS 13  
'WILLIAM THE WANDERER' 45  
WITCHCRAFT 49  
WRECKS 10  
YOUNG, Peggy 135

## ROUND-UP COUNTY BY COUNTY

### **Orkney**

Agriculture 30 57 72 74 78 128  
Archaeology 85–86 126  
Archives 40 55 110 140 158  
Biography 64 120 132–33 154 156  
Birds 129  
Church history 58 69 88 112  
Crime 146  
Description & travel 31 80 125  
Economics 65  
Education 135  
Ethnology 61  
Families 18–19 54 56 108 130 142 147 150 153 155–56  
Fishing & fishermen 13  
Folk studies 32 77 79 104 106–07 121–22 127 145 148  
History 2 21 53 73 132  
Language 66 76 85 87  
Law 29 63  
Literature 34 69–70  
Medicine 97  
Music 148  
Personal names 20 22  
Trade 29 75

### **Shetland**

Agriculture 36 38 67 100 116 119  
Archives 40 110 140  
Biography 39  
Birds 137  
Currency 118  
Description & travel 15–16 41  
Diet 116  
Economics 65  
Ethnology 61  
Families 39 109 149



Fishing & fishermen 13 28 37 124  
Folk studies 17 23 42 103 117 138  
History 11–12 27 53 131 141  
Language 33 114–16  
Law 63  
Music 1 59–60 105  
Ships 10 124

### **Caithness**

Bibliography 89  
Agriculture 62 68 99 112  
Archaeology 7  
Architecture 25 91 96  
Archives 3 40 99  
Biography 152  
Church history 3 6 50 157  
Crime 90  
Description & travel 45 81  
Families 8 14 111 113  
Folk studies 5 51 92 94 98  
History 2 25 91 96 98  
Personal names 9  
Place-names 93

### **Sutherland**

Bibliography 89  
Archaeology 101–02  
Architecture 52  
Church history 157  
Description & travel 45 48 81  
Families 8 151  
History 2  
Literature 139  
Medicine 82  
Place-names 43–44 47–48 71

## PORTRAITS

(References are to facing pages, except where 'front.' is specified.)

- BILDT, Karen Knudsdaughter (d. 1663) 2:85  
BRUCE, John, of Sumburgh (1798–1885) 2:39  
BRUCE, John, of Sumburgh (1837–1907) 2:39  
BRUCE, Ursilla Katherine (1770–1808) 2:38  
CLOUSTON, Robert Stewart (d. 1911) 4:153  
CRAWFORD, Christian. *see* MOODIE  
ELPHINSTONE, Anna Charlotte Maria. *see* HARTWELL  
ELPHINSTONE, François (1600–33) 2:153  
ELPHINSTONE, John (1722–85) 2:154  
FIRTH, John (1838–1922) 7:116  
GOWER, *Lady* (d. 1869) 8:113  
GUNN, Robert Marcus (1850–1909) 4:102  
HARTWELL, *Lady* Anna Charlotta Maria (d. 1809) 2:154  
HEDDLE, Henrietta (c.1794–1833) 1:310  
HIDDLESTON, Isabella (1811–89) 3:95  
JOHNSTON, James, of Coubister (1798–1887) 8:130  
JOHNSTON, John, of Coubister (1760–1821) 8:130  
JOHNSTON, Joshua (1720–94) 8:130  
KING, James, *Lord Eythin* (1589–1652) 5:164  
MACALLAME, Aana (b. 1615) 9:74  
MARY, *Queen of Scots*. 5:145  
MOODIE, *Capt.* Benjamin, *8th Laird of Melsetter* (1723–69) 1:311  
MOODIE, *Capt.* Benjamin, *10th Laird of Melsetter* (1789/90) 1:311  
MOODIE, Christian. 1:258  
MOODIE, Henrietta. *see* HEDDLE  
MOODIE, *Capt.* James, *7th Laird of Melsetter* (c.1645–1725) 1:258  
MOODIE, *Major* James, *9th Laird of Melsetter* (1757–1820) 1:310  
MORISON, *Rev.* John (1746–98) 5:166  
MOWAT, *Admiral* Axel, of Houland (1593–1661) 2:85

- ROBERTSON, *Lt James* (1780–1860) 2:39
- ST CLAIR, *Maj.-Gen. Arthur* (1736–1818) 2:86
- SANDS, Isabella. *see* HIDDLESTON
- SANDS, Margaret (1778–1851) 3:95
- SANDS, Thomas, of Swanbister (1778–1850) 3:95
- SINCLAIR, *Lady Isabella*. 6: front.
- SINCLAIR, *Lady Janet*. *see* TRAILL
- STEUART, William (1686–1768) 2:202
- STEWART, Robert, of Massater (1728–99) 6:205
- SUTHERLAND, *Lady Elizabeth* (1765–1839) 2:84
- SUTHERLAND-LEVESON-GOWER, George Granville William,  
*Marquis of Stafford* (1828–92), *aft. 3rd Duke of Sutherland* 8:113
- TRAILL, James, of Hobbister and Ratter (1759–1843) 5:front.
- TRAILL, *Lady Janet* (d. 1806) 4:161
- TURNBULL-STEWART, Grace Margaret, of Massater (1822–1907)  
6:207
- WATT, Margaret. *see* SANDS

## OBITUARIES

- ANDERSON, *Rev. John*. 4:155–56  
ANDERSON, John Gerard. 5:138–39  
ANDERSON, *Mrs Mathew*. 1:137  
BALFOUR, *Col. J. W.* 1:137  
BEEBY, W. H. 3:188–89  
BLIND, Karl. 1:106  
BOLT, *Hon. W. M.* 1:137  
BRAND, James. 1:137  
BRUCE, John, of Sumburgh. 1:137–38  
CASKEY, *Rev. William*. 2:181  
CHEYNE, *Sir John*. 1:78–79  
CLOUSTON, Robert Stewart. 4:153–55  
CLUNIES ROSS, George, of the Cocoa-Keeling Islands. 4:55–57  
COPLAND, *Sir William Robertson*. 1:138–39  
DANSON, *Very Rev. James Myers*. 3:118–19  
DOWDEN, *Rt Rev. John*, Bishop of Edinburgh. 4:53–55  
DUNBAR, *Sir Archibald Hamilton*. 4:55  
DUNDAS, *Hon. Mrs.* 1:233  
ELPHINSTONE, *Lt Col. Sir Nicholas*. 1:106–07  
FINLAYSON, Henry. 3:119  
FLETT, John. 5:91  
FORTESCUE, A. Irvine. 1:107  
FORTESCUE, Anne Irvine, of Kingcausie and Swanbister. 2:250  
FRASER, Peter Peterson. 1:288  
FRØLICH, Laurens. 2:56  
GARRICK, R. J. 5:137  
GEDDES, Alexander. 2:181  
GIFFORD, Francis G. 1:329  
GILBERTSON, R. P. 1:79  
GOLD, Andrew. 1:107

- GRAHAM, Thomas. 1:79  
GUNN, Robert Marcus. 4:102–05  
HARRISON, Arthur H. 1:107  
HAY, *Col.* Charles. 5:138  
HAY, Ursilla Katherine, of Hayfield. 3:188  
HENDERSON, William, of Petister. 1:288  
HONYMAN, *Rev. Sir* William Macdonald. 5:137–38  
HUGHSON, Andrew. 1:329  
INKSTER, James T. A. 1:107–08  
IRVINE, Jane Tyrie. 3:117–18  
IRVINE, John. 3:55–56  
IRVINE, Katherine. 1:286  
ISBISTER, Robert H. 1:108  
LEASK, Thomas. 5:89  
LENNIE, Charles. 2:250  
LOGIN, *Rear-Admiral* Spencer Henry Metcalfe. 2:116  
LOUTTIT, James. 2:117  
LOUTTIT, John. 2:116–17  
M’HARDY, *Rev.* James. 3:190  
MacKAY, Angus, *Rev.* 5:89–90  
MANSON, James C. 1:79  
MARWICK, *Sir* James David. 1:286–88  
MILLER, *Rev.* J. Stewart. 3:190  
MITCHELL, *Sir* Arthur. 3:116–17  
MUIR, Robert, of Scapa. 1:139  
MURE, *Sir* Andrew. 3:116  
OLLASON, Thomas Peterson. 1:288  
ROBERTSON, A. J. 1:108  
ROSEY, John B. 1:79  
SINCLAIR, Margaret Crichton. 2:118  
SINCLAIR, *Hon. Mrs* Pelham, of Murkle and Stevenson. 4:57–58  
SMITH, Robert. 1:187

- SPENCE, Catherine Stafford. 1:48  
SPENCE, Philothea Fea. 1:187  
SPENCE, Robert. 3:120–21  
STOVE, James. 1:234–35  
SUTHERLAND-GRAEME, Alexander Malcolm, of Graemeshall. 1:233–34  
SUTHERLAND-GRAEME, Margaret Isabel, of Graemeshall. 2:250  
TRAILL, Thomas William. 3:254–55  
TRAILL-BURROUGHS, *Lady* Eliza D'Oyly. 1:233  
TULLOCH, Jane Innes. 5:90–91  
TURNBULL-STEWART, Grace Margaret Sands. 1:235–56  
WATSON, John. 2:117  
WATT, William George Thomas, of Breckness. 2:181–83  
WILLIAMSON, Arthur Laurence. 3:119  
WINSTONE, Benjamin. 1:108