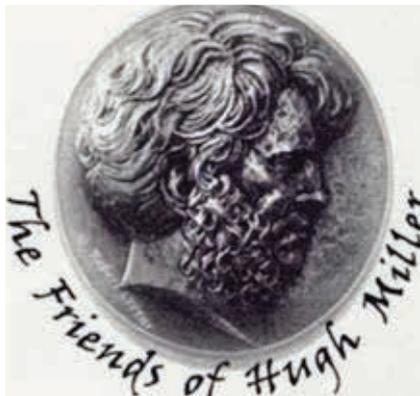
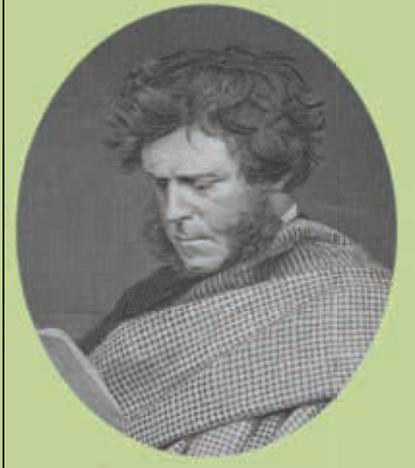


Issue No 18
Summer 2013

Editor:
Martin Gostwick,
Secretary

Hugh's News

Newsletter of
The Friends of Hugh Miller



AIMING HIGHER THAN EVER

MAJOR decisions have been taken by The Friends management committee which aim to increase our income, and improve our effectiveness, and to help in these tasks we seek YOUR participation as members.

The committee met immediately before the 7th AGM on 18th May and agreed substantial proposals to extend our range of services and reach out to new audiences.

HUGH WHO?

The committee determined that a crucial factor in gaining wider interest in Hugh Miller, raising income and improving recruitment will be the creation of a new website. This will pose and seek to answer the question Hugh Who? and explain why he is still important today. It will set out who we are and what we do as the key organisation alongside the National Trust for Scotland in promoting Miller's legacy. Other pages will invite new members to join, signpost the Hugh Miller Museum & Birthplace Cottage, and a Miller Cromarty 'trail.' There will be a research resource for specialist interests containing much material from the existing Discover Hugh Miller web address. The latter will be taken down when the new site is up and running.

Member Liz Broumley is joining Martin Gostwick as joint webmaster for the new project. We are using a Spanglefish design system, provided by local firm Plexus Media. And here is where we invite your help. We need YOUR insights into two key questions.

INSIDE:

Fatherless boy p 2

An inspirational journey ps 3 - 7

A coat for James Milne p 9

History "hits" p 14

(continued on page 2)

Members Lillemor Jernqvist and Derek Lancaster-Gaye always lay a posy at the grave of the Miller's first-born daughter Eliza in the old St Regulus kirkyard.



FATHERLESS BOY



An etching of the newly bereaved young Hugh Miller has come to our notice which can be viewed as the very image of Victorian sentimentality, but it draws its inspiration from the man's own words.

The work depicts a barefoot boy lying disconsolately amidst sand dunes. Under it a caption reads "Hugh Miller watching for his father's vessel," and quotes directly from his autobiography, *My Schools and Schoolmasters*: "I used to climb, day after day, a grassy protuberance of the old coastline immediately behind my mother's house and to look wistfully out long after everyone else had ceased to hope for the sloop with the two stripes of white and the two square topsails, but months and years passed by and the white stripes and the square topsails I never saw."

The boy bears no obvious resemblance to the Hugh Miller we know, and the scene shown is much nearer sea level than the hill behind the Birthplace Cottage to which he is referring, but no matter. It is a passage that has always played on the heart-strings. Some readers may remember Cromarty children performed a touching song round the same theme in their Bicentenary musical, "Hugh Who?"

The etching on paper is by James Smetham (1821-1889), and is dated 1860, just four years after its subject's death. It is buried in the archives of Tate Britain in London, listed as n02396) and can be viewed by appointment in the prints and drawings collections there. Would any of our London members care to go and check it out sometime?



(continued from page 1)

1. WHY IS HUGH MILLER STILL IMPORTANT TODAY?
2. WHAT IS HIS SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO YOU PERSONALLY?

The most telling answers are likely to be featured in the new site. If you would like to contribute, please contact our Chairman, Professor Nigel Trewin (nm.trewin@btinternet.com) or Secretary Martin Gostwick (MGostwick@gmail.com) or write to him at c/o Russell House, 55 Shore Street, Cromarty IV11 8XL.

RAISED SUBSCRIPTION

The other major element in expanding our scope, is the plan to increase our annual subscription to £15 per annum from 1st April 2014. The present £10 annual subscription has been held at that figure since our foundation in 2006, while our costs have grown substantially, as our operations have expanded. All our current members will



A scene from the children's musical *Hugh Who?*

be circulated in the coming months with a letter of invitation to renew at the higher rate, together with the necessary forms.

The raise was deemed essential in particular because our outgoings over the last two years have exceeded our income, and our balance is now, in round figures, about £2000 down on the 2011 figure.

EVENTS, ACQUISITIONS

One of the Friends' greatest achievements was the holding of the "Local Hero" geology conference in Cromarty in 2008, attended by some 60 leading earth scientists, and we need to have the financial capacity to mount significant events in future.

We want also to be able to make acquisitions for the Museum, such as books, manuscripts and other artefacts which may from time to time come up for sale. Last year we acquired for the Museum for £300 a Miller title bearing Lydia Miller's handwritten dedication to a great family friend. The National Trust for Scotland has no budget for such purchases. The Friends are also committed to sponsoring a new edition of Miller's masterpiece, *The Old Red Sandstone*.

The committee looked at ideas for ways in which we can boost our membership, and one of these was to establish institutional, society and company memberships, each category to be charged an appropriate fee. Seeking commercial sponsorship was also discussed. A publicity flyer will be considered to promote The Friends, and the Museum. We would also welcome any ideas and suggestions from members about how to take these initiatives further.

AN "INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEY"

MINUTES OF THE 7TH FRIENDS OF HUGH MILLER ANNUAL MEETING, CROMARTY CENTRE, 18TH May 2013

Present: Chairman, Nigel Trewin, Martin Gostwick, Lilian Cameron, Frieda Gostwick, Susan Gemmill, Alix Powers-Jones, Zooulla Spirou, Jane Verburg, Elizabeth Marshall, Robin Munro, Bob Davidson, Emma Nightingale, Stephanie Kulesza, Marek Kulesza, Margie Trewin, Liz Broumley, Henry McKenzie Johnston, Lillemor Jernqvist, Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Patricia Strack, Amelia Windsor.

Apologies for absence: Fran Tilbrook, Piers Hemy, Lindsay Hemy, Roy & Katie Nelson, Ralph O'Connor, John Nightingale, Anne Marsden, Menno Verburg, Lester Borley.



Volunteer archivist Liz Broumley

The minutes of the 6th AGM were agreed. Office-bearers Nigel Trewin, Chairman, Martin Gostwick, Secretary, and Sue Rider Busby, Treasurer, were re-elected unopposed. Three management committee members were also re-elected nem con, Henry McKenzie Johnston, Ralph O'Connor and Lilian Cameron.

The Chairman thanked Rev Ken Dupar and Mrs May Hunter, who had resigned from the management committee due to ill health, for their services. The Secretary and Chairman nominated and seconded two new members, both unanimously elected: Liz Broumley and Lillemor Jernqvist.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012/13

We have made a net gain of 10 new members in 2013, thanks largely to a recruiting drive by our chairman among his many colleagues in the world of earth sciences, and of myself locally. The recruitment brings our total paid-up up-to-date membership back up to three figures, 101 to be exact. It is not easy to recruit, as the primary task of the Museum staff is to win new membership for the National Trust for Scotland, while our means of communication directly with the public is either through personal contact or via the newsletter. We have been fortunate in recent years to add many direct descendants to our ranks. It is important for obvious reasons that our numbers do not remain static. Our very latest member, No 200, is a geologist, Gavin Berkenheger, of Muir of Ord, who wrote to us that "Hugh Miller has been a great inspiration to me from an early age, and his status as a "local hero" was definitely an influence in my choice to become a geologist." We need new blood like him!

We mourn the premature passing of one of our most active members and museum volunteers, Yvonne Lambert. Also of Sue Rider Busby's brother Alastair Rider.



Dr Alix Powers-Jones

We have maintained vigorous support for the Museum, via a number of contributions. We donated a cheque for £1,985 to the new garden space, and that accounts for the drop in our overall balance compared with last year, while we remain very healthily in the black. We supplied volunteers for indoor reception, research assistance and outdoor gardens maintenance, names as follows: Fran Tilbrook, Janey Clarke, Patsy & Sandy Thomson, Liz Broumley, Lindsay Hemy, Frieda Gostwick, Jane Verburg, and myself.

And we have received on behalf of the Museum, a very exciting donation from one of our members, Bob Davidson, about which Jane Verburg will enlighten you during discussion. A special mention also goes to the archive research work contributed by another new member, Liz Broumley, who will also shortly give you an outline.

The Friends remains ready to sponsor a new edition of *The Old Red Sandstone*. Mike Taylor has reported that he and co-editor Ralph O'Connor hope to have a draft completed this summer, ready to show us and potential publishers.

We have produced four editions of the newsletter, *Hugh's News*, this year. Notable features have been the introduction of a series of articles *From the Archives*, and the continuation of the *Landmark* series. Here I should pay tribute to the unstinting support of our sub-editor Piers Hemy, for whom we have this year bought a new formatting programme which has enabled him to turn pages round in half the time, the last issue completed in only 48 hours.

We also assisted the permanent staff at the British Science Festival exhibition in Aberdeen last August, through Stephanie Kulesza, Nigel and yours truly, and at two Gardens Open Days, at the recent Easter Weekend egg-fest, and with tour-guiding, and interpretation.

I will just mention here the trip which Frieda and I made to the national museums in Edinburgh last October, during which we initiated steps towards correcting a misleading caption about Miller's death under his statue. This is an ongoing effort. We must again thank our former patron Lester Borley for being the first to raise this matter, as well as other concerns about the NMS exhibitions.

In the broader context, we can see that the National Trust for Scotland's financial difficulties continue to be severe, and we must be grateful, if possible more than ever so, for the Middleton Fund's securing of the Hugh Miller Museum's future. The efforts of the Museum's staff to extend our reach and range, and of The Friends to back them up, offer the best possible bases for future progress.

TRAVELLING THE GREAT JOURNEY

IT WAS property manager Dr Alix Powers-Jones who chose the phrase "an inspirational journey" to describe her tenure in her second annual report to The Friends, covering what had been "a very busy year."

Supporting her were senior assistant Zooulla Spirou, seasonal staff Sheila MacDonald and Caroline McPhee, a number of volunteers, and three interns who joined the team for short periods. The museum had taken stalls to the British Science Festival in Aberdeen and the Highland Archaeological festival in Inverness. It had featured in the TV travel series, *Great British Railway Journeys*.

She thanked the Friends and others for donating to create the new garden "room" behind Paye House, and the NTS Highland conservations volunteers who worked their



Robert Dick enthusiast Jane Verburg

socks off to clear and prepare the ground for its future educational purposes. She hoped the Scottish prison service could make the benches.

NTS has asked her to draw up a 5-year strategic plan for developing the property as a centre for lifelong learning. The property had launched a Facebook page. The Window on the World exhibitions begun in December 2012 would be repeated this year, this time on the theme of journeys physical, spiritual and mental, and she invited the Friends to contribute again.

DELVING IN THE TREASURES

Members got the biggest lift of the whole occasion from two talks which brought into view the fabulous wealth of information in the reserve collections, contained in artefacts and manuscripts which cannot be displayed because they are too fragile and may need more conservation.

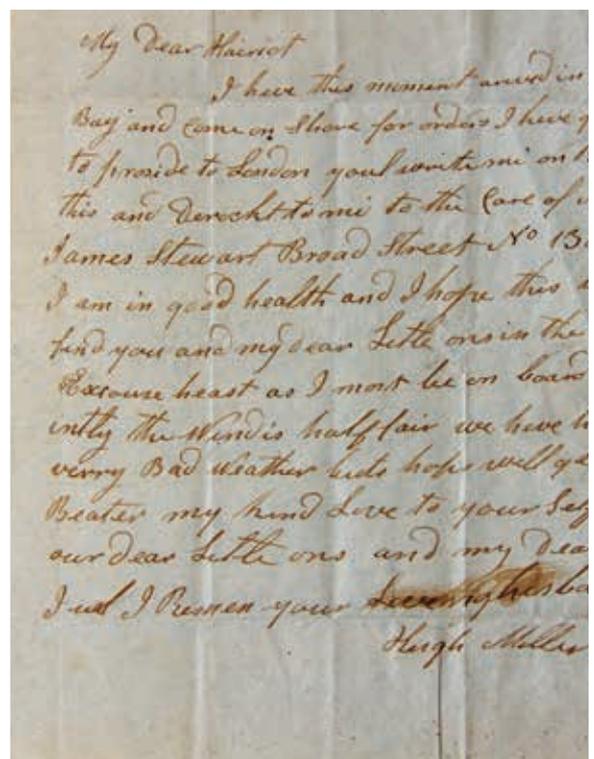
The talks were delivered by two of our newest Cromarty recruits, retired university lecturer Liz Broumley and teacher Jane Verburg, both specially invited to speak because of their enthusiastic research work.

Liz Broumley explained that because she was partially deaf, she liked best to be closeted with research material in a room by herself. She was by no means a professional archivist, but thrilled to find things which appealed to her heart.

She showed images of a number of artefacts, chosen almost at random, to illustrate the host of treasures to be found. They included seacaptain Hugh Miller's tender last letter to his family before perishing in a shipwreck, and an equally caring letter from Hugh himself to his mother. A printed lecture Miller gave on the Noachian Deluge, a letter from Darwin, and some of Miller's superb fossil drawings also featured. An 1843 atlas showed the entire western half of the United States still to be mapped.

She said the files were fascinating which revealed the history of the Museum itself over the last 20 years, especially leading up to the opening of Miller House in 2004. Many of the ideas for the future had been realised, while some had fallen by the way, and might well do with being reassessed, "What happens to the reserve collections is a source of inspiration for the future," she remarked.

Jane Verburg had also been on the "inspirational journey" to which Dr Alix Powers-Jones alluded,



Hugh Miller's father's last letter to his family before perishing in a shipwreck.

tracing and investigating the letter fragments of the great Thurso naturalist Robert Dick. Her journey had begun when she learnt through a chance meeting with Liz Broumley that the archives held three such fragments. Further inquiries to their source, member Bob Davidson, resulted in him donating to the museum a further 19 letters on which she was now engaged in research.

Chairman Nigel Trewin, following the general applause, appreciated the value of unearthing the treasures in the archives, which too often lay unseen and forgotten.



Right: The reserve collections room in Miller House.

Below: Hugh Miller's fossil drawings show what an excellent draughtsman he was, as well as wordsmith.



FRIENDS OF HUGH MILLER

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2012/13

The following financial statement is a true and fair assessment of the income and expenditure for the Friends of Hugh Miller for the period 1 April 2012 to 30 March 2013

Financial Statement as at 31 March 2013

| | | |
|--|---------|------------------|
| Opening balances as at 1 April 2012 | | £7,709.67 |
| INCOME | | |
| Membership subscriptions | 1296.00 | |
| other | 784.43 | |
| Bank interest | 3.04 | |
| | | £2,083.47 |
| | | £9,793.14 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| | £ | |
| Website / online services fees | 127.20 | |
| AGM Meeting requirements | 200.00 | |
| Auditors fees | 186.00 | |
| Newsletters | 155.00 | |
| Hugh Miller Museum Garden Room | 1985.00 | |
| Purchase of the Cruise of the Betsy | 300.00 | |
| Purchase of My Schools and Schoolmasters | 12.00 | |
| Honorarium | 500.00 | |
| Expenses | 145.88 | |
| Software | 120.00 | |
| | | £3,731.08 |
| Closing balance as at 31 March 2013 | | £6,062.06 |

Prepared by Sue Busby
Treasurer
Friends of Hugh Miller
14/04/2013

HUGH, LYDIA, AND AN OUTFIT FOR JAMES MILNE

Nigel Trewin

This is the story so far on a fascinating item I purchased from the Riddell Library sale in October 2012 that illustrates assistance and advice given to a Cromarty lad of limited means who left the town for Edinburgh.

The item consists of a copy of Hugh Miller's pamphlet on banking entitled '*Words of Warning to the People of Scotland on Sir R Peel's Scotch Currency Scheme*' published by John Johnstone of Hunter Square, Edinburgh in 1844. The pamphlet was printed at the '*Witness*' office by Miller and Fairley. These '*Words of Warning*' run to 80 pages and display Hugh's wide knowledge of the Scottish banking system and the threats of 'the present national crisis'. The main feature of Peel's scheme was to replace paper one pound notes in Scotland with gold coin. Miller, and many others considered that this would have been a disaster for everyday trade and business in Scotland.

Hugh Miller dedicated this pamphlet to 'Robert Ross, Esq., Banker, Cromarty', who had recommended Hugh Miller for the post of Accountant at the Cromarty branch of the Commercial Bank of Scotland, the first bank in Cromarty. Robert Ross was the 'Agent', at the bank, a post equivalent to a local Bank Manager in modern parlance. Hugh worked at the bank with Robert Ross for five years, and they became the best of friends.

The pamphlet would originally have had a paper cover, but it is now in a modern binding of grey boards with a green buckram spine, with no indication of contents. There is nothing exciting about the item until you read a very grubby postal item that has been carefully tipped inside the front flyleaf. Opening the double sheet of paper reveals that it is a printed bank draft for £1 10/- from the Cromarty branch of the Commercial Bank of Scotland, dated 30 June 1836, and made out to a James Milne. The printed form is addressed to the

Manager of the Commercial Bank in Edinburgh. The form has been filled out by Hugh Miller as the Accountant and is also signed by Robert Ross as Agent. Hence it is immediately apparent why the letter has been bound with the pamphlet, the two were probably united by Mr Riddell.



However, there is more! Hugh Miller has written a letter to James Milne below the printed form. The ink is faded, and Hugh Miller's characteristic signature is crammed into the bottom right corner - not an unusual feature with Hugh's letters. His letter reads:-

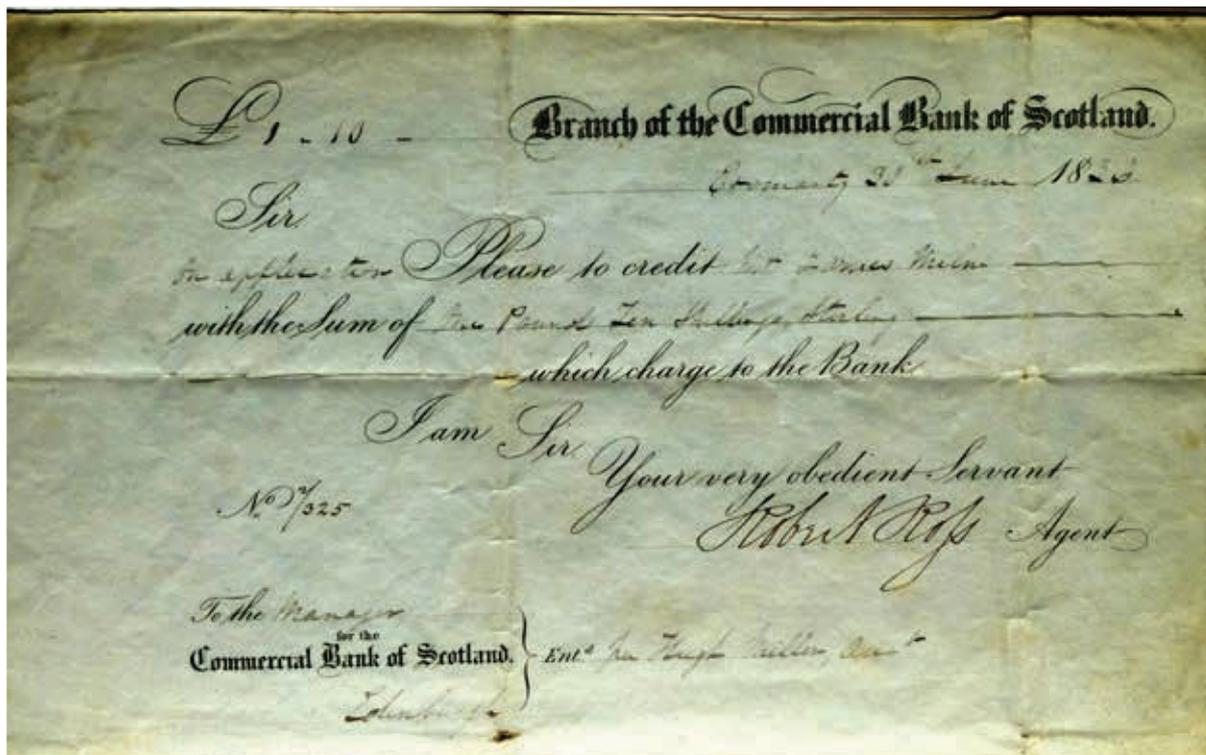
My dear James,

On receipt of this please cut off the printed part of the sheet, and after endorsing your name on the back of it carry it to the Commercial Bank and on presenting it you will receive the sum specified. The bank is on the High Street,- you will find the entrance to it a few doors from the Tron Kirk as you proceed upwards towards St Giles. All your friends here are very much interested in your success, and this in a great measure through the pleasant account you have given of yourself in your letter. You see what an advantage it is to be able to think on paper. Franklin you know attributed his rise in the world to this accomplishment. Should you write Miss Fraser or me a long letter using a double sheet- and relate in it in the simple unpretending style which you can render so agreeable, an account of your adventures since leaving Cromarty. either of us would take care that it should be seen in quarters where it would do you no harm. At all events we shall be more anxious to hear from you than disposed to grudge the postage.

I am dear James,

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Miller



(Note: Miller is saying he will pay the postage of a 'double sheet' letter; postage was charged by the sheet and the distance; it was quite normal for the recipient to pay the postage at that time.)

The content of this letter reveals that the order was not presented for payment. Milne did not cut off the printed part of the sheet or endorse the back, thus he did not collect the money.

Opening up the double sheet I was surprised to find another letter to James Milne, this from Lydia F Fraser, Hugh Miller's fiancée at that time. She writes:-

My Dear Sir,

Having caught a glimpse of your letter to your father, and understanding by it that you were in want of an outfit, my pupils and myself have gladly contributed to render you what little assistance we could. There are so few of us that it is only a trifle; still I hope you will not refuse to accept it as a proof that we remember your former kindness and attention when giving us the aid of your instruction.

Heartily wishing you the success you deserve –

I am

Yours very sincerely

Lydia F Fraser

Ladies Boarding School

Cromarty

From this it is clear that Lydia ran a boarding school for ladies at this time, and that she was responding to a letter James had written to his father. Clearly both Hugh and Lydia were keen to give James the support he needed.

The letter was sent to James Milne, c/o Mr Lockhart, 8 Ann-Field, near Edinburgh. The address was a lodging house at the time, and Mr Lockhart could have been another lodger rather than the owner. It is a 'Paid' letter costing two shillings and a halfpenny, the latter being a tax for carriage on a coach. The letter reached Edinburgh on 2 July. There it was stamped 'To Pay One Penny', presumably to send it on to Ann-Field in the local penny post. It is maybe the presence of this 'To Pay' mark that saved this letter from destruction. It appears to be a very rare mark, maybe only one other is known. And hence it would be of value to a postal historian collecting Edinburgh postmarks. The Riddell library sale included one lot of postal history reference books, thus it may be that Mr Riddell had interests in postal history and found the item through this interest. (For any Postal History fans the mark is ED 176 in Auckland, *Postal Markings of Scotland to 1840*, 2nd Ed (ed R. Stables) and is latest known date for the mark).

So who was James Milne? We know from the letters that he had family, including his father, in the Cromarty area in 1836. My thanks to David Alston who recalled an article by Miller on the Cromarty Charity School from the *Inverness Courier* of 22 June 1831. During an inspection of the school one James Milne, stated to be in his 13th year, and 'Monitor of 3i Class' recited some verses for the inspectors. He was probably the first son of Robert Milne, a wright or house carpenter, and Magdalena Sutherland. James is recorded as born in Fortrose on 11 April 1817. The family had moved to Cromarty by 1827 where their last three children were born. Their mother died in 1834, and their father remarried in Helmsdale in 1840 and had moved to Lancashire by 1851. David Alston also notes that there was a Sheriff court action in 1836, John Templeton, merchant, Cromarty vs Robert Milne, house carpenter, Cromarty on the subject of Debt. Assuming that James was born in Fortrose April 1817, he would have been just past his 14th birthday at the time of the school inspection, hence in his 15th year. Maybe this is an error in school records or a newspaper printing 13 for 15.



Old Bank House, Cromarty site of the former Commercial Bank from where Miller almost certainly sent the correspondence

It seems that following his mother's death Robert Milne had a young family to look after and fell into debt. Thus it is understandable that Hugh and Lydia were keen to support young James who was known to them through the Charity School.

The problems in the Milne family may have pushed young James to leave for Edinburgh to seek work, and the financial situation of his father would certainly explain why he was in need of a 'outfit'. However, despite searches by several people, we do not know what happened to James when he went to Edinburgh. We do not know that he even received the letter and bank draft. Surely he would have cashed it if he had received it?

Maybe he had left his lodging at Ann-Field and could not be traced. I think this unlikely because there was a penny to collect on delivery of the letter, and there is no postal endorsement on the cover to say the charge was not paid, or that the recipient could not be found. If this had been the case the letter would have become a 'dead letter' and would have been returned to sender by the post office.

The letter is unusually dirty on the exterior, thus it is possible that James carried it with him at work, awaiting an opportunity to visit the bank. At present it seems sad, but most likely, that illness or accident overcame James. In that event it is possible that the document was returned to the bank and filed. This brings us back to Mr Riddell and his library. He was born in 1918 and died in 1985. He was a banker by profession, entering the Commercial Bank of Scotland when he left school and rising to be Manager of a branch in Edinburgh. Hence it is quite possible that he found this item in a bank file and 'liberated' it, maybe when the Commercial Bank of Scotland merged with the National Bank of Scotland in 1958, or on the merger with The Royal Bank of Scotland in 1968. The Royal Bank of Scotland holds archives of the old Commercial Bank dating from its foundation in 1810.

I stress that the above remarks should be regarded as plausible explanations rather than hard facts, and we do not know the fate of James Milne. However, the uncashed bankers draft that has survived the years is remarkable. It bears letters from both Lydia and Hugh during the period they were engaged, and illustrates Hugh's work at the bank in Cromarty. It also bears the signature of Hugh's great friend and bank colleague Robert Ross. Within 6 months of the date, on the 7th January 1837, Hugh and Lydia were married and Robert Ross gave Lydia away at the ceremony.

Many thanks to David Alston and Mike Taylor for conducting searches in relation to this article.



NORMAN NEWTON'S TALK

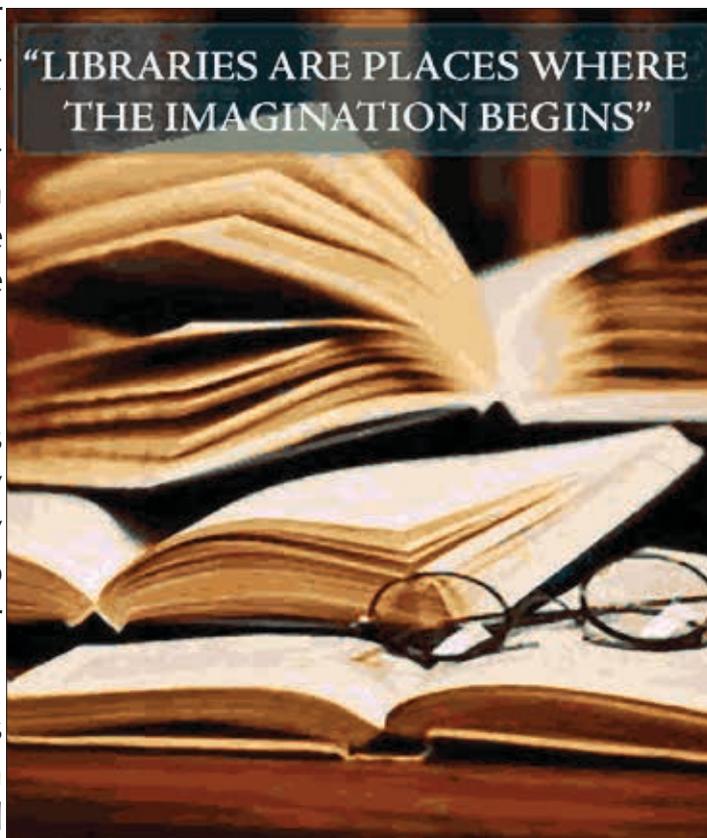
MAKING BIG "HITS" ON HISTORY

ENTER Am Baile, the Highland history website, on your search engine, and in the Newspaper index you will find no less than 63 "hits" for Hugh Miller in the 19th Century under six different subjects. This information was one of many pointers Norman Newton gave to the possibilities of recovering lost information about the great man in the online archives of the Highland Council's libraries. The subjects covered in the papers ranged over buildings, culture and literature, education, events, natural history, geology, and Births, Deaths and Marriages. The articles are contained mainly in two long defunct papers, the *Inverness Journal*, (1807-1849) and the *Inverness Advertiser*, (1849-1885). Each article is given a short summary, and the full version can be obtained through the Inverness Central Library in Farraline Park.

For Cromarty itself, Mr Newton found over 1,750 hits, one of which referred to it, intriguingly, as "an extremely filthy burgh." Sadly, the paper for which Hugh Miller himself wrote, the *Inverness Courier*, between about 1829 and 1835, is not included in the digitised records. Some *Courier* editions are available on microfiche, also in the Central Library.

As Mr Newton advised, "you can easily miss important information by relying on only one title." As a journalist myself, I can testify to how easy it is to make mistakes, and to lose out on facts or comments which another journal obtains!

Mr Newton, who played a leading part as head of the council's library and information services in setting up the Am Baile site, said it was recognised UK-wide as "a wonderful resource." He lamented that, after years of growth, "it is now administered by a skeleton staff on a 'care and maintenance' basis, a victim of budget cuts. For anybody in any doubt as to the Highland Council's commitment to Highland history and culture, this says it all." He gave four main sources for Highland history research. The first was Highland Libraries themselves, 61 community and school establishments and eight mobiles. From these, as just one example, you can find out what copies of Hugh Miller's books are stocked and in which library they are held. Their website is <http://highlifehighland.com/libraries>.



For Am Baile, he recommended <http://www.ambaile.org.uk/en/newspapers/index.isp> and <http://www.ambaile.org.uk/en/literary-landscapes/index.isp>. Highland Archives, which “began with one full-timer (Bob Steward) and a clerical assistant in a converted police cell,” is now a “multi-million pound, purpose-built facility” in the Bught area of Inverness which can be visited online at <http://highlifehighland.com/archives>. “But you really need to go there, and be prepared to be surprised and amazed by their advice and expertise.” The National Library of Scotland (<http://www.nls.uk/>) has a superb Digital Map Library. Norman had a look under ‘Map Images’ for Cromarty, and found among others, a map of the parliamentary burgh dated 1832, prepared as part of the Great Reform Act, and, in James Thomson’s *Atlas of Scotland*, a county map dated 1826.

All the above assumes of course that you possess a computer, and have access to the internet, which not all our members do. But there is always – your local library, most of which have internet access! And most librarians are very ready to help you.

Mr Newton cited one further superb resource, “the human population of the Highlands, for recent times an unsurpassed source of information, though with all historical source material it has to be treated with caution, as well as respect.” This approach could be said to be true of Hugh Miller’s work itself. However, Mr Newton closed with a warm personal tribute to Cromarty’s local hero.

“(He was) a genuine Victorian polymath who knew how to do research, and how to write it up in an interesting and accessible way. Even when writing for specialists he could introduce local colour to liven up a scientific discussion, but when writing for a general audience he is unsurpassed, and for anybody interested in the local history and culture of the Highlands I would say, read Hugh Miller’s books. I love his style and I especially love his commitment to books and literature.”



MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

We take this opportunity to remind Members that the subscription rate shown on the Membership Appeal information overleaf is valid only until April 2014, when the new subscription rate of £15 per annum takes effect.

Please encourage prospective members to enrol now at the current subscription level!



FRIENDS OF HUGH MILLER MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

Having read this newsletter, will Members now please consider some of the following actions:

- Increasing your subscription contribution.
- Making a donation.
- Inviting family or friends to join, with the following message from us:

We have pleasure in inviting you to consider subscribing to the charity, named The Friends of Hugh Miller. The Friends' annual subscription has been set at £10 per person. Subscribers receive a Membership Card, a copy of the constitution, a periodical newsletter and an annual report. We look forward to welcoming you as a Member of the Friends.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I WISH to become a member of the charity, The Friends of Hugh Miller (SC 037351), in order to support its work in making Miller's life and work better known, and in particular to assist in the development of the Hugh Miller Museum and Birthplace Cottage in Church Street, Cromarty.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Tel No.....

Email address.....

Membership subscription is £10 annually, payable by cash/cheque or bank standing order. We will send standing order and Gift Aid forms on request.

RETURN TO:

MARTIN GOSTWICK

SECRETARY, THE FRIENDS OF HUGH MILLER

c/o 55 SHORE STREET, CROMARTY, ROSS-SHIRE IV11 8XL

TEL NO: 01381 600301

EMAIL ADDRESS: mgostwick@gmail.com