

ANN POLSON

My next entry, which was also written some time ago, is by someone who is still remembered and often spoken of by local people. This record was written by Ann Polson in 1952 and amended in 1971 and was given to me by John Shaw one of her grandsons.

Memories of my grandfather.

John Alexander Polson JP. was my grandfather. His father (William Polson) was a miller in the Bonar Bridge district, at Brackwell in Migdale and he married Ann Fraser, a daughter of a factor down Nairn way. He was at one time the only chemist (not qualified – there were no chemistry degrees then) in Sutherland and bled patients with leeches which were attached to the patient and allowed to suck as much blood as they could hold. They were then thrown into a large leeches jar containing salt and they vomited up the blood – and were again ready for use. The leeches jar is still in Mrs. Polson (Grandma's) house and is like a large china pepper pot with a perforated lid with 'LEECHES' printed on the front. It was about 12 inches high.

Grandpa was also a general merchant and had about 6 horses and vans which travelled all over Sutherland with goods. When Bonar Bridge was being repaired by divers a few years ago (1946) they brought up a clay pipe with JA Polson Bonar Bridge printed on it. This pipe must have been sold before 1900.