Memorandum Book of Sergeant John Matheson

This Memorandum Book contains notes (written by himself) on the life of John Matheson, born 1772 in Strath Carnaig, Sutherland, died 1856 at Kirn, Dunoon¹. This book descended in the family to Dr. Mary (Molly) McN Johnstone, of Edinburgh who lent it in 1971 to Dr RL Mackay of Wolverhampton. Dr Mackay made, or caused to be made, a transcription. Dr Johnstone was a direct descendant of John Matheson's nephew, Donald Murray. A copy of this original transcription is in historylinksarchive.org.uk, the website of the History Links Museum in Dornoch.

The notebook passed to Dr Johnstone's son, AG Johnstone who in 2025 produced this version based on the originals and Dr Mackay's transcription, with some corrections. Interpolations '(?)' indicate doubtful readings. [page numbers] are as per original. Footnotes by AGJ.

Along with the original document are two contemporary papers: an "Address and Declaration of the 2nd Fencible Regiment" (1797), and the "Second Report to the Committee for Managing the Meikle Ferry Fund" (1810). pdf copies of these are available.

John Matheson was born in Strath Carnaig, and passed the rest of his youth at Rearchar, and then at Brea (Brae) up till the age of 12 or 13, after which year he had jobs in various parts of Sutherland and Ross, until he joined the Fencibles in 1793. He served therein for six years and then began a successful career in the textile weaving and dying business in Glasgow. He married but his only child (and main heir) was a son, born illegitimately when John was about nineteen.

Three pages (6 sides) from a smaller and now lost notebook (or possibly two notebooks) are included at the start of the Memorandum Book.

¹ Or Glasgow?

[inside cover]

THE MEMORANDUM BOOK OF SERJEANT JOHN MATHESON OF 2ND OR SUTHERLAND FENCIBLE REGIMENT AYR. 12 JANUARY 1799.

[side p1]

Born in the year 1772 (See Page 4 of this narration in particular²) in Craigkilisy of Strathcarnack³, parish of Dornoch, shire of Sutherland, but having left Craigkilisy when a child with my parents, I spent the most years when a boy in Rearchar⁴ in said parish, and afterwards in Breay⁵ in said Parish. My parents were of the class of small farmer in that country, and though not rich, they were willing to give their children common education, suitable to their own situation in life. But even in Rearchar when I was very young we were three miles, and in Breay six miles from the Parish School, probably more, which will account for my deficiency in that respect, but as soon as I was able to bear the fatigue I was sent to the nearest school (such as it was) and for a short time to some distant schools viz. Cromarty, etc. However these remarks are not necessary here.

[side p2] So far as I know I must have left my Father's house between the age of 12 and 13 years, and was employed in the country in various situations. Being some time a boy about Major Sutherland's house, Rearchar, afterwards with a sort of country shop-keeper, Inverchasly (?), parish of Creich and then a sort of a teacher in the parish of Lairg, and my last service in Sutherland was with Capt. Alexander McKinzie of Grunard, lately arrived from the East Indies.

I left my parents' house for the last time, at Breay, early in the year 1791 when I was nearly 19 years of age. I went to Glasgow where I remained principally at Mrs. Baird's, Bleachfield, Pollockshaws (after having tried several other employments which I found too heavy for me), and returned to my Father's house the latter end of 1792, where I remained only till the Spring of 1793 when I entered the Sutherland Fencible Regiment, not as a matter of choice, but owing to the old feudal system of the country I was obliged to go to "please the Laird". Plainly every farmer was under the necessity of giving at least one of his sons (if he had any fit for the service) to this Regiment. I continued in this regiment for the six years they were embodied and during the last [side p3] five years I was pay-serjeant of Major Sutherland's Company.

The Regiment having been disbanded at Fort George in the latter end of the Spring of 1799 I went to Sutherland to see my friends, where I remained till the harvest, when I came to Glasgow and having no trade I paid David McKay for teaching me in the weaving of muslin, etc. Being about two years at this trade I left it and engaged with Messrs Dale and McIntosh

² This insertion possibly in another hand.

³ Strath Carnaig

⁴ Rearquhar

⁵ Or Brae – believed to be the ruined croft near the broch marked at NH 704 988

at Dalmarnock Dyeworks to learn the Turkey Red Dyeing⁶. My terms after the first year was £50 per year, house, coal etc. and 2½% of the profits of the work. But having a view of selling the works they did not dye much, and sold the work in January 1805 and retired from the trade.

I then engaged with Henry Monteith Bogle and Co. as Assistant Manager at Barrowfield Dyework, under Mr. John McIntosh (my brother-in-law) and remained in that situation till the end of 1815 when he went to Dalmarnock Dyeworks, and I had the charge, having my cousin Neil Matheson as my assistant till the end of 1823 when he went to take the charge of Blantyre Dyework, and Donald McKay [side p4] my sister's son⁷ assisted me.

My first engagement was for 14 years to the end of 1818, and my salary was only £90, free house, fire(?), etc. till I got the Management when my salary was to be £100 per annum. But my employers were very generous and made my salary always more than my agreement was, having made my salary for the last 2 years of the 14 £250 per annum. I entered on another engagement for 5 years from the 1st of January 1819 to the end of 1823 at £500 per annum, free house, coal, candle, soap. And having served the 5 years I now write this in the beginning of 1824, when I am only engaged for this year, at the rate of £500 per annum, the same as the last five years.

N.B. An alphabetical Index is entered at the end of this book.8

N.B. I should have said in the narrative in page 1st that I was born on Saturday, held in the old style as St. Peter's Fair Day in the country, which must be either on the latter end of March or what is more probable on the beginning of April 1772. This being the year is certain, but the day of the month cannot be ascertained.

[side] Having served the years 1824 and 1825 on the same terms of the preceding five years, being in all 7 years at £500 per annum, exclusive of coal, house, candles and soap – this period of my time may be considered as ended on the 31 December 1825.

How I spent my money during the above time may be seen in the following pages, the principal part being laid out in building a house in Monteith Row⁹ in the years 1821 and 1822, being only finished at Whitsunday 1822, though it was commenced at Whitsunday 1821. This House cost when completely finished ... (*Here follows a completely blank space for 2 lines. "John Matheson Life" contains a fair amount of detail.*)

All the transactions entered in this book carried to a larger book where they are more regularly arranged, alphabetically till the end of 1825, and this book is kept merely as a copy, and should this book be destroyed or lost it would be of no consequence as all the transactions of this sort is entered in another Ledger to the 30th December 1826, inclusive.

⁶ See Wikipedia "Turkey Red": family lore says that this dye was much favoured in the making of Paisley Pattern material

⁷ Elspeth's son

⁸ missing

⁹ North side of the Clyde, running along Glasgow Green.

John Matheson

[side] [The next side contains a note of a few rather random cash payments in 1809-1818 to a vintner, a carrier and others.

D ^r Andrew Adams	£	Sh	D
1812			
Sep ^t 6 to Cash	2	1	3
Nov ^r 3 to Cash	1	1	0
1813			
May 8 to Cash	1	10	3
Aug ^t 12 to Cash	1	19	10½
Oct ^r 12 to Cash		16	6
1815			
June 1 to Cash	2	16	6
	10) 5	4½
D ^r John Adams Vintner			
1809			
June 19 to Cash	1	8	0
1810			
March 6 to Cash	1	2	9
	2	10	9
D ^r James Aitken, Carrier			
1810			
Jan ^y 9 to Cash		16	10
1813 D ^r James Aitken			
Nov ^r 17 to Cash		3	8
1818 D ^r James Arbuckle & Co			
March 6 to Cash	2	2	0

[page 1]

Memorandum of Subsistence etc paid to Major Sutherland's Company 2nd Fencible Regiment, Ayr, 12 January 1799.

The Pay from 4th to 10th January was paid at Ayr (though it should have been paid in Belfast, Ireland) having embarked at Belfast for Scotland on Friday the 4th January 99, and arrived at Ayr Tuesday 8 January 99. Also the Pay from 11 to 17 January was paid at Ayr the 12 January 99, with the Pay for 4 to 10 January as above mentioned, and by the following Tickets, viz. @ 4/- each private per week and @ 4/6 D^{rs10} 5/- Corp^{ls} and 7/- Serj^{ts}.

following fickets, viz.	@ 4/- each private per	week and @ 4/0 D 3/	- Corp and //- serj .
N° 1 £1.0.0	Nº 6 th £1.0.0	Nº 11 th £1.0.0	No 16 th £0.16.0
1 Hugh Allan	1 Dav ^d M ^c Kay	1 Ja ^s Suth ^d 1	1 Alex ^r Ross 1
2 Rob ^t Calder	2 Don ^d M ^c Kay	2 Geo Math ⁿ 1	2 David Ross 2
3 Jas Campbell	3 J ⁿ M ^c Kay 1	3 Geo Math ⁿ 2	3 Jas Ross 1
4 John Campbell 1	4 J ⁿ M ^c Kay 2	4 Neil Math ⁿ	4 Jas Ross 2
5 John Campbell 2	5 J ⁿ M ^c Kay 3	5 W ^m Math ⁿ	
Nº 2 nd £I.0.0	Nº 7 th £1.0.0	Nº 12 th £1.0.0	Nº 17 th £1.0.0
1 Ang ^s Colqu ⁿ 1	1 Lach ⁿ M ^c Kay	1 Alex ^r Munro 1	1 Ang ^s Suth ^d
2 Alex ^r Davidson	2 Rob ^t M ^c Kay 1	2 Don ^d Munro	2 Don ^d Suth ^d 1
3 Ja ^s Davidson	3 Rob ^t M ^c Kay 2 nd	3 Hugh Munro	3 Geo Suth ^d 1
4 Murdo Dingwall	4 Rob ^t M ^c Kay 3	4 Ja ^s Suth ^d	4 Geo Suth ^d 2
5 Jas Donaldson	5 Simon McKay	5 John Suth ^d	5 Gilch ^t Suth ^d
Nº 3 rd £I.0.0	Nº 8 th £0.16.0	Nº 13 th £1.0.0	Nº 18th £1.0.0
1 Ang ^s Douglass	1 Tho ^m McKay	1 Ja ^s Munro	1 Corp ^l Gordon
2 Hugh Douglass	2 W ^m McKay	2 John Munro	2 D° Grant
3 Ja ^s Douglass	3 Ang ^s McKenzie	3 Alex ^r Murray	3 D° Matheson
4 David Forbes	4 Don ^d McKenzie	4 Don ^d Murray	4 D° Murray
5 Donald Fraser		5 Geo Murray	
Nº 4 th £1.0.0	Nº 9 th £1.0.0	Nº 14 th £1.0.0	Nº 19 th £1.1.0
1 Alex ^r Gordon	1 Dun ⁿ M ^c Kenzie	1 Hugh Murray	Serj ^t Ross
2 Don ^d Graham	2 Hector McKenzie	2 J ⁿ Murray 1	Dº Murray
3 Will ^m Graham	3 Hugh McKenzie	3 J ⁿ Murray 2	D ^o Matheson
4 John Gunn	4 John McKenzie	4 J ⁿ Murray 3	
5 Rob ^t Hutton	5 Hugh McIntosh 1	5 J ⁿ Murray 4	
Nº 5 th £1.0.0	N° 10 th £0.16.0	Nº 15 th £1.0.0	
1 Adam McKaulay	1 Hugh McIntosh 2nd	1 Niel Murray	
2 Adam McKay	2 Don ^d M ^c Leod	2 Rob ^t Murray	
3 Alex ^r M ^c Kay 1	3 Hugh McLeod 1	3 Walter Murray	
4 Alex ^r McKay 2	4 Hugh McLeod 2	4 W ^m Murray	
5 Ang ^s M ^c Kay 1 st		5 James Paul	
NB this carried forward to page 2 on the other side			

4.0

¹⁰ Drummers

[page 2]

Mem^m continued from page 1st or other side

Mens names that rd the tickets on the other side & the sum in each

No £ Sh D 4 to 10 Jan No £ Sh D f^m 11 to 17 Jan 99 at Ayr Men not included this date viz.

NO L SII D + to 10 Juli No L 3	in bi II to I' sail so at My	TVICIT TIOC III OTGIGGGG CITIS GIGGG TIES
1 1.0.0 Hugh Allan	1 1.0.0 Hugh Allan	1 Serg ^t M ^c Kay Ayr
2 1.0.0 A.Colqu ⁿ	2 1.0.0 Jas Donaldson	2 D ^{r11} W ^m M ^c Kay D ^o
3 1.0.0 J ^s Douglas	3 1.0.0 Jas Douglas	3 Don ^d Suth ^d 2 nd D ^o
4 1.0.0 Don ^d Graham	4 1.0.0 Alex ^r Gordon	4 Ja ^s Suth ^d 1 st D ^o
5 1.0.0 A M ^c Aulay	5 1.0.0 Alex ^r M ^c Kay 1 st	5 Alex ^r M ^c Kenzie D ^o
6 1.0.0 Don ^d M ^c Kay	6 1.0.0 John McKay 3 rd	6 Finlay Cameron D ^o
7 1.0.0 Rob ^t McKay 3 rd	7 1.0.0 Rob ^t M ^c Kay 1 st	7 Hugh Suth ^d D ^o
8 0.16.0 Tho ^s M ^c Kay	8 0.16.0 Tho ^s M ^c Kay	8 Don ^d Ross Detach ^d P.P(? ¹²)
9 1.0.0 J ⁿ M ^c Kenzie	9 1.0.0 Hugh McKenzie	9 David Ross 1 st D ^o
10 0.16.0 Hugh McLeod 2nd	10 0.16.0 Hugh McLeod 2nd	10 Finlay McKenzie Do
11 1.0.0 Geo Math ⁿ 1 st	11 1.0.0 Ja ^s Suth ^d 4	11 David Math ⁿ D ^o
12 1.0.0 Alex ^r Munro 1	12 1.0.0 John Suth ^d 2 nd	12 Hugh Gray D°
13 1.0.0 Don ^d Murray	13 1.0.0 James Munro	13 J ⁿ Suth ^d 1 st d ^o
14 1.0.0 Hugh Murray	14 1.0.0 Hugh Murray	14 Ja ^s Suth ^d 3 rd D ^o
15 1.0.0 Rob ^t Murray	15 1.0.0 Niel Murray	15 W ^m M ^c Kay 1 st Newry
16 0.16.0 Dav ^d Ross 2 nd	16 0.16.0 Jas Ross 1st	16 Dav ^d Munro D ^o
17 1.0.0 Don ^d Suthd 1	17 1.0.0 Geo Suth ^d 2 nd	17 Alex ^r Munro 2 nd D ^o
18 1.0.0 Corp ^I Math ⁿ	18 1.0.0 Corp ^l Math ⁿ	18 D ^r Geo M ^c Kay D ^o
<u>19 1.1.0</u> pd each JM	<u>19 1.1.0</u> p ^d each by J.M.	19 Doug ^l M ^c Phail Beeth(?)
£18.9.0 f ^m 4 to 10 Jan ^y	£18.9.0	20 Alex ^r Ross 2 nd Glas ^w
	£18.9.0	21 Walter Murray Kllm ^k
	£36.18.0	

NB all the above were afterwards paid by Major A Sutherland at Ayr.

NB The above and the other $side^{13}$ is a memorandum of the pay states from 4 to 10^{th} and from 11^{th} to 17^{th} January 1799 as paid at Ayr the 12^{th} January 1799. Our regiment being on the march from Ireland we could not get change to pay till this date.

¹¹ Drummer

¹² Possibly Portpatrick

¹³ i.e. page 1

[page 3]

Pay state as subs ^{cr} was pa			
Nº 1st £1.0.0	Nº 2 nd £1.0.0	Nº 3 rd £1.0.0	Nº 4 th £1.0.0
1 Hugh Allan	1 Ang ^s Colq ⁿ	1 Hugh Douglass	1 Don ^d Graham
2 Robert Calder	2 Alex ^r Davidson	2 Jas Douglass	2 W ^m Graham
3 Jas Campb ^{II}	3 Ja ^s Davidson	3 David Forbes	+3 John Gunn
4 John Campb ^{II} 1	4 Murdo Ding ^{II}	+4 Don ^d Fraser	4 Rob ^t Hutton
+5 John Campb ^{II} 2 nd	+5 Ja ^s Donaldson	5 Alex ^r Gordon	5 Ad ^m M ^c Aulay
Nº 5 th £1.0.0	Nº 6 th £1.0.0	Nº 7 th £1.0.0	Nº 8 th £1.0.0
1 Ad ^m M ^c Kay	1 Don ^d M ^c Kay	+1 Rob ^t M ^c Kay 1	1 W ^m M ^c Kay 2 nd
+2 Alex ^r M ^c Kay 1	2 Ja ^s M ^c Kay 1	2 Rob ^t M ^c Kay 2 nd	2 Ang ^s M ^c Kenzie
3 Alex ^r M ^c Kay 2 nd	3 J ⁿ M ^c Kay 2 nd	3 Rob ^t M ^c Kay 3 rd	3 Don ^d McKenzie
4 Ang ^s M ^c Kay	4 J ⁿ M ^c Kay 3 rd	4 Simon McKay	4 Dun ⁿ M ^c Kenzie
5 David McKay	+5 Lach ⁿ M ^c Kay	5 Tho ^s M ^c Kay	+5 Hugh McKenzie
Nº 9 th £1.0.0	N° 10 th £1.0.0	N° 11 th £1.0.0	Nº 12 th £1.0.0
1 Jo ⁿ M ^c Kenzie	1 Geo Math ⁿ 1	+1 Jas Munro	1 Hugh Murray
2 Hu M ^c Intosh 1	+2 Geo Math ⁿ 2 nd	2 Alex ^r Murray	2 John Murray 2 nd
3 Hu M ^c Intosh 2 nd	3 W ^m Math ⁿ	3 John Munro	+3 John Murray 3 rd
+4 Hu McLeod 1st	4 Alex ^r Munro 1	4 Don ^d Murray	4 John Murray 4
5 Hu McLeod 2nd	5 Don ^d Munro	5 Geo Murray	5 Rob ^t Murray
Nº 13 th £1.0.0	Nº 14 th £1.0.0	N° 15 th £0.16.0	N° 16 th £1.0.0
1 W ^m Murray	1 Jas Ross 2 nd	1 Gilch ^t Suth ^d	+1 Corp ^l Gordon
2 Jas Paul	2 Ang ^s Suth ^d	2 Ja ^s Suth ^d 4	2 Corp ^l Grant
3 Alex ^r Ross 1 st	+3 Don ^d Suth ^d 1 st	3 J ⁿ Suth ^d 2 nd	3 Corp ^l Mathn
4 Davd Ross 2 nd	4 Geo Suth ^d 1 st	+4 W ^m Suth ^d	4 Corp ^l Murray
+5 Jas Ross 1st	5 Geo Suth ^d 2 nd		

No 17th £1.1.0 Serg^{ts} +Murray +Ross and +Matheson +each

N.B. The man that rec^d the money (blot) the tickets has a cross + thus before their names in the tickets as above

[page 4]

I have rec^d this date for Major Suth^{ds} Co^y Ayr 25 Jan^y 1799

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81 Privates @ £1.0.0 each including their subsistence f^m 25 to 31 Jan<sup>y</sup> (and(?) 4p ?? their arrears f^m 24 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1798 to 25 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1799 @ 16/- each - £81.0.0 1 Drum<sup>r</sup> @ 4/6<sup>d</sup> Subs<sup>nce</sup> f^m 25 to 31 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1799 - 0.4.6 4 Corporals @ 5/- each Subs<sup>nce</sup> f^m 25 to 31 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1799 - 1.0.0 4 Serjeants @ 7/- each D° D° D° - £83.12.6
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Note: Don^d Suth^d 2nd Ja^s Suth^d 1st Hugh Suth^d & Finlay Cameron and Alex^r M^cKenzie are the 5 privates that were left at Ayr with the heavy baggage of the Reg^t when we went to Ireland and Captⁿ Gordon pays them from June 1798 to 24 Jan 99 and I have only given them 4p each as subsistence f^m 25 to 31 Jan^y 1799 out of the sum of £81 ?? so that I have returned to Major Alex^r(?) Suth^d 16/- for each of them 5 men being £4 ??

There are also not included this date exclusive of the above Don^d Ross, David Ross 1st Finlay McKenzie, Hugh Gray, David Matheson, John Sutherland 1st & Ja^s Suth^d 3rd / men detached

Douglas M^cPhail in Beith (?), Will^m M^cKay 1st Dav^d Munro, Alex^r Munro 2nd & D^r George M^cKay in Newry Ireland

Also Niel Matheson, Niel Murray, John Murray 1st Hugh Munro, Hector M^cKenzie (*name deleted, possibly* Dav^d M^cKenzie), Ang^s Douglas Don^d M^cLeod & James Suth^d 2nd on furlough this date

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4 Serj<sup>ts</sup> @ 7/- each £1.8.0
4 Corp<sup>ls</sup> & 5/- D° 1.0.0
1 D' @ 4/6 0.4.6
76 Privates @ £1 each
£76.0.0
5 D° @ 4/- each £1.0.0
90 paid £79.12.6
Bal returned to
Major Suth<sup>d</sup> £4.0.0
same date £83.12.6
90 Including Non Com<sup>d</sup> &<sup>c</sup> p<sup>d</sup>
7 Privates Detached
8 D° on Furlough
3 D° in Ireland
1 D' in D°
1 D' in D°
1 Dr in D°
1 Dr otal Establishment
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Pay states f ^m 1 st to 28 Feb ^y 1799 were paid by the following tickets without any alteration			
only that D ^r Geo M ^c Kay died the 13 & was only included & paid to 15 Feb ^y 1799			
Nº 1 st £1.0.0	Nº 2 nd £1.0.0	Nº 3 rd £1.0.0	Nº 4 th £1.0.0
1 Hugh Allan	1 John Camp ^{II} 2 nd 3	1 Jas Donaldson 4	1 Don ^d Graham
2 Rob ^t Calder	2 Angs Colquh 24	2 Hugh Douglas	2 Will ^m Graham
3 Finlay Cameron 2	3 Alex ^r Davidson	3 Ja ^s Douglas 1	3 John Gunn 2-3
4 Jas Campbell 1 3	4 Ja ^s Davidson	4 Don ^d Fraser 3	4 Rob ^t Hutton 1-4
5 John Camp ^{II} 1 4	5 Murd ^o Ding ^{II} 1	5 Alex ^r Gordon 2	5 Alex ^r M ^c Aulay
N° 5 th £1.0.0	Nº 6 th £1.0.0	Nº 7 th £1.0.0	Nº 8 th £1.0.0
1 Ad ^m M ^c Kay 2-4	1 Don ^d M ^c Kay 3	1 Robert McKay 1	1 W ^m M ^c Kay 2 nd 3-4
2 Alex ^r M ^c Kay 1 3	2 John McKay 1	2 Robert McKay 2nd 123	2 Ang ^s M ^c Kenzie
3 Alex ^r M ^c Kay 2 nd 1	3 John McKay 2 2	3 Robert McKay 3 4	3 Don ^d M ^c Kenzie
4 Ang ^s M ^c Kay	4 John M ^c Kay 3 4	4 Simon M ^c Kay	4 John M ^c Kenzie 1 2
5 David M ^c Kay	5 Lach ⁿ M ^c Kay 1	5 Tho ^s M ^c Kay	5 Hugh McLeod 1st
N° 9 th £1.0.0	Nº 10 th £1.0.0	N° 11 th £1.0.0	Nº 12 th £1.0.0
1 Will ^m M ^c Kay 1 st 124	1 Hugh McLeod 2nd 234	1 W ^m Math ⁿ 2	1 Alex ^r Murray 3
2 David Munro	2 Hugh McIntosh 2nd	2 Alex ^r Munro 1 3 4	2 Don ^d Murray 1 2
3 Alex ^r Munro 2 nd 3	3 Doug ^l M ^c Phail	3 Don ^d Munro	3 Geo Murray
4 Hu M ^c Intosh 1 st	4 Geo Math ⁿ 1 st 1	4 J ^{as} Munro	4 Hugh Murray 4
5 Alex ^r M ^c Kenzie	5 Geo Math ⁿ 2 nd	5 John Munro 1	5 J ^{as} Murray 2 nd
N° 13 th £1.0.0	N° 14 th £1.0.0	N° 15 th £1.0.0	Nº 16 th £1.0.0
1 John Murray 3 rd 2	1 Ja ^s Paul 2	1 Ang ^s Suth ^d	1 Hugh Suth ^d 1 2
2 John Murray 4 th 1-4	2 Alex ^r Ross 1 st 3	2 Don ^d Suth ^d 2 nd 1 4	2 Ja ^s Suth ^d 1 st
3 Robert Murray 3	3 Dav ^d Ross 2 nd 4	3 Geo Suth ^d 1 st 3	3 Jas Suthd 4th
4 Walter Murray	4 Jas Ross 1st	4 Geo Suth ^d 2 nd	4 John Suth ^d 2 nd 3-4
5 Will ^m Murray	5 Ja ^s Ross 2 nd 1	5 Gilch ^t Suth ^d 2	5 Will ^m Suth ^d
N° 17 th £1.1.0	Nº 18 th £1.4.0	N° 19 th £0.7.0(?)	
1 Serg ^t R M ^c Kay	1 Serg ^t K Ross 4	Serj ^t J Matheson 1 2 3 4	
2 D ^r Geo M ^c Kay	2 Serg ^t A Murray 3		
3 D ^r W ^m M ^c Kay	3 Corp ^l J Math ⁿ 1 2	Total pd weekly to 15 Feb	
4 Corp ^I A Gordon 1 2 3 4	4 Corp ¹ J Grant	Total p ^d weekly to 28 Feb ^y	7 D° £18.7.6
Men not included in the above pay states are 1 Don ^d Ross detached P.P. ¹⁴ 2 Dav ^d Ross 1 st D° D° 3 Hugh Gray D° D° 4 Finlay M ^c Kenzie D° 5 David Math ⁿ D° 6 John Suth ^d 1 st D° 7 Ja ^s Suth ^d 3 rd D°			Feb' 1799 in the above as he died on the 13 th Feb' 21 not paid as above 89 paid in the above 110 Total Establishment
NB The men that R^d the money and tickets are marked after their names (him that rec^d the first week's marked 4, him that got the 2^{nd} is marked 2. The 3^{rd} in marked 3 & the 4 marked 4			
	n that got the 2" is mar	kea ±. The 3'° in marked	→ & the 4 marked 4
&c.			

¹⁴ Portpatrick?

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Pay States from 1 to 7 ^t	h March 1799 at Ayr		
Nº 1 £1.0.0	Nº 2 nd £1.0.0	Nº 3 rd £1.0.0	Nº 4th £1.0.0
1 Hugh Allan	+1 Angs Colquhn	1 Ang ^s Douglas	1 Don ^d Graham
2 Robert Calder	2 Alex ^r Davidson	2 Hugh Douglas	2 W ^m Graham
3 Finlay Cameron	3 Ja ^s Davidson	3 Jas Douglas	+3 Rob ^t Hutton
+4 Jas Campbell	4 Murd ^o Dingwall	+4 Don ^d Fraser	4 Ad ^m M ^c Aulay
5 John Campbell 2 nd	5 Ja ^s Donaldson	5 Alex ^r Gordon	5 Ad ^m M ^c Kay
Nº 5 th £1.0.0	Nº 6 th £1.0.0	Nº 7 th £1.0.0	Nº 8 th £1.0.0
1 Alex ^r M ^c Kay 1 st	+1 John McKay 2 nd	1 Tho ^s M ^c Kay	+1 Don ^d M ^c Kenzie
2 Alex ^r M ^c Kay 2 nd	2 John McKay 3 rd	2 W ^m M ^c Kay 1	2 Hector McKenzie
3 Angs McKay	3 Rob ^t M ^c Kay 1	3 W ^m M ^c Kay 2 nd	3 John McKenzie
+4 David McKay	4 Rob ^t M ^c Kay 2 nd	4 Alex ^r M ^c Kenzie	4 Hugh McIntosh 1
	5 Rob ^t M ^c Kay 3 rd	+5 Ang ^s M ^c Kenzie	5 Hugh McIntosh 2
5 John McKay 1st	Nº 10 th £1.0.0	Nº 11 th £1.0.0	Nº 12 th £1.0.0
Nº 9 th £1.0.0			1 John Murray 2
1 Don ^d M ^c Leod	1 W ^m Math ⁿ	1 Jas Munro	+2 John Murray 3
+2 Hugh McLeod 2 nd	2 Alex ^r Munro 2 nd	2 Alex ^r Murray	
3 Geo Math ⁿ 1 st	3 Dav ^d Munro	+3 Don ^d Murray	3 John Murray 4
4 Geo Math ⁿ 2 nd	4 Don ^d Munro	4 Geo Murray	4 Rob ^t Murray
5 Niel Math ⁿ	+5 Hugh Munro	5 John Murray 1st	5 Niel Murray
Nº 13 th £1.0.0	N° 14 th £1.0.0	Nº 15 th £1.0.0	Nº 16 th £1.1.0
1 Walter Murray	1 Jas Ross 1st	1 Geo Suth ^d 2 nd	1 Jas Suth ^d 4 th
+2 W ^m Murray	2 Jas Ross 2 nd	+2 Gilch ^t Suth ^d	+2 John Suth ^d 2 nd
3 Ja ^s Paul	3 Ang ^s Suth ^d	3 Hugh Suth ^d	3 W ^m Sutherlan ^d
4 Alex ^r Ross 1 st	4 Don ^d Suth ^d 2 nd	4 Jas Suthd 1st	4 Hugh Murray
5 Davd Ross 2 nd	+5 Geo Suth ^d 1 st	5 Ja ^s Suth ^d 2 nd	5 Corp ^f J Grant
N° 17 th £1.1.6d	Nº 18 th £1.1.0	Total paid this date as	
+1 Serj ^t R M ^c Kay	+1 Serj ^t R Ross	including Noncom & P	
2 D ^r W ^m M ^c Kay	+2 D ^r A Murray	15 men not included Ir	
3 Corp ^l A Gordon	+3 D ^r J ⁿ Math ⁿ	Detached 5 Pr 1 Corply	was on Furlough & are
4 D ^r J ⁿ Math ⁿ		paid to 7 March 1799	also the D ^r and Private
		that died of late	
N° 19th £1.12.0	Men not included		NB the men that got
I paid each his share	1 Don ^d Ross detch ^d		the money & tickets
1 John Campbell 1st	2 Davd Ross 1 D°		are marked thus +
2 Hugh Macleod 1st	3 Hugh Gray D°		before their names
3 John Gunn	4 Davd Math ⁿ		
4 Simon McKay	5 Finlay McKenzie		
5 Alex ^r Munro 1 st	5 John Sutherland 1st		
6 John Munro	7 Jas Sutherland 3rd	ah	
7 Lach ⁿ M ^c Kay	8 Davd Ross pd to 7 Mar	CII	
8 Don ^d M ^c Kay	9 Hugh McKenzie Do 10 Dun McKenzie Do		
o son may	11 Dond Suthd 1st Do		
	12 Alex ^r Ross 2 nd D°		
	13 Corp ^l N. Murray D ^o		
	14 Dougal McPhail died	25 Feb ^y	
	15 D' Geo McKay died 1		

[page 7]

Pay States from 8 to 14			
Nº 1st £1.0.0	Nº 2 nd £1.0.0	Nº 3 rd £1.0.0	Nº 4 th £1.0.0
1 Hugh Allan	1 Ang ^s Colqu ⁿ	1 Ang ^s Douglass	1 Alex ^r Gordon
2 Rob ^t Calder	2 Alex ^r Davidson	2 Hugh Douglass	2 Don ^d Graham
3 Finlay Cameron	3 Jas Davidson	3 James Douglass	3 W ^m Graham
4 Jas Campbell	4 Murd ^o Ding ^{ll}	4 David Forbes	4 Rob ^t Hutton
5 John Campbell	5 Ja ^s Donaldson	5 Don ^d Fraser	5 Ad ^m M ^c Aulay
Nº 5 th £1.0.0	Nº 6 th £1.0.0	Nº 7 th £1.0.0	Nº 8 th £1.0.0
1 Alex ^r M ^c Kay 1	1 John McKay 3rd	1 Will ^m M ^c Kay 1 st	1 Dun ⁿ M ^c Kenzie
2 Alex ^r M ^c Kay 2 nd	2 Robert McKay 1	2 Will ^m M ^c Kay 2 nd	2 Hector M ^c Kenzie
3 Dav ^d M ^c Kay	3 Robert McKay 2nd	3 Alex ^r M ^c Kenzie	3 Hugh M ^c Kenzie
4 John McKay 1	4 Robert McKay 3rd	4 Ang ^s M ^c Kenzie	4 John M ^c Kenzie
2 John McKay 2 nd	5 Tho ^s M ^c Kay	5 Donald McKenzie	5 Hugh McIntosh 1
Nº 9 th £1.0.0	Nº 10 th £1.0.0	Nº 11 th £1.0.0	Nº 12 th £1.0.0
1 Hugh McIntosh 2nd	1 Niel Matheson	1 Hugh Munro	1 John Murray 1
2 Donald McLeod	2 Will ^m Matheson	2 James Munro	2 John Muray 2 nd
3 Hugh McLeod 2nd	3 Alex ^r Munro 2 nd	3 Alex ^r Murray	3 John Murray 4
4 Geo Math ⁿ 1	4 David Munro	4 Don ^d Murray	4 Niel Murray
5 Geo Math ⁿ 2 nd	5 Donald Munro	5 Hugh Murray	5 Rob ^t Murray
N° 13 th £1.0.0	Nº 14 th £1.0.0	Nº 15 th £1.0.0	N° 16th £1.1.6
1 Walter Murray	1 James Ross 2 nd	1 Geo Suth ^d 2 nd	1 Serj ^t M ^c Kay
2 Will ^m Murray	2 Ang ^s Suth ^d	2 Gilch ^t Suth ^d	2 D ^r W ^m M ^c Kay
3 Ja ^s Paul	3 Don ^d Suth ^d 1	3 Hugh Suth ^d	3 Corp ^l J ⁿ Grant
4 Alex ^r Ross 2 nd	4 Don ^d Suth ^d 2 nd	4 Jas Suthd 1st	4 Corp ^l A Gordon
5 Davd Ross 2 nd	5 Geo Suth ^d 1 st	5 Jas Suthd 2nd	5
Nº 17 th £1.2.0	Nº 18 th £0.14.0	Total Pd this date £17.	17.6
1 Corp ^t J ⁿ Mathn	1 Serj ^t Rob ^t Ross		
2 Corpl Hugh Murray	2 Serj ^t J ⁿ Math ⁿ	NB the men that Rd the	e money & tickets are
3 Jas Suthd 4		marked thus + before t	heir names as above
4 John Suth ^d 2 nd		(except that they're no	t on this page)
5 Will ^m Suth ^d	s		
Men not included	Men not included		
1 Hugh Gray detached	1 John Camp ^{II} 1st Furld 2nd	$^{ m d}$ March 1799 & p $^{ m d}$ to 11 A	
P.P.	2 John Gunn D° D°		
2 Finlay McKenzie Do	3 Hugh McLeod 1st Do Do		
3 David Matheson D°	4 Simon M ^c Kay D ^o D		
4 David Ross 1st Do	5 Alexr Munro 1 st D° D		
5 Don ^d Ross D ^o	6 John Munro D° D' 7 Lachlan McKay D° D		
6 James Suth ^d 3 rd D ^o	7 Lachlan McKay Do D 8 Donald McKay Do D		
7 John Suth ^d 1 st D ^o		larch & paid to 11 April 99	
Major Suth ^d has left	10 James Ross 1 st D° D		
this weeks Pay & the	11 John Munro 3 rd F 5 D		0
next w ^t me this day.	12 Alex ^r Ross 1 st F 7 [0
He went home	13 Ang ^s M ^c Kay D ^o I		
7 March 1799)°
	15 Serj ^t Ang ^s Murray F. 5	™ & paid to 28 March	

Pay State from 15 to 21 March 1799 pd as follows I left with Serit Robt Ross at Ayr for the I paid Ser^jt M^cKay & all the Detachm^t that are at Galston from 15 to 21 March (Commanded following men this state viz. by Lieu^t W^m Grant) viz. 1 Serj^t Ross M^r(?) Taylor¹⁵ 7/-1 Seri^t Robert M^cKay 7/-2 Hugh Allan Taylor 4/-3 Robert Calder Dº 4/-2 D^r W^m M^cKay 4/6 + 3 George Suthe 2nd 4/-4 Dond Graham Do 4/-4 David Forbes 4/-5 John McKay 1st Do 4/-5 Dond Fraser 4/-6 Thos McKay Do 4/-7 George Matheson Dº 4/-6 Rob^t Hutton 4/-7 Alex^r M^cKay 1st 4/-8 Ang^s Douglas Sick 4/-8 Alex^r M^cKay 2nd 4/-9 Alex^r M^cKenzie D^o 4/-10 W^m M^cKay Sick Attendant 4/-9 David McKay 4/-11 Finlay Cameron Recruit(?) 4/-10 John McKay 2nd 4/-11 John McKay 3rd 4/-12 Alex^r Gordon Do 4/-12 Rob^t M^cKay 1 4/-13 John Campbell 2nd Do 4/-13 Rob^t M^cKay 2nd 4/-14 Murdoch Dingwall Dº 4/-14 Angs Munro 4/-15 Dond McKenzie Do 4/-15 Hugh McKenzie Do 4/-16 Geo Matheson Dº 4/-16 Hugh McLeod 2nd 4/-17 Jas Paul Do 4/-17 Niel Mathⁿ 4/-18 Jas Ross 2nd Do 4/-18 Alex^r Munro 2nd 4/-19 Angs Suthd Do 4/-19 Jas Munro 4/-20 Hugh Suthd Do 4/-21 Will^m Suth^d Do 4/-20 Alex^r Murray 4/-21 John Murray 2nd 4/being in all £4.7.0 Slr from 15 to 21 March 22 John Murray 4th 4/-1799 not included this date in my Pay State viz. 23 Walter Murray 4/-24 W^m Muray 4/-7 men detached at Wigton &c P.Patrick 1 Dond Ross 25 Alex^r Ross 2nd 4/-26 Dond Suthd 1st 4/-2 David Ross 1st 27 Dond Suthd 2nd 4/-3 Hugh Gray 28 Geo Suthd 1st 4/-4 Finlay McKenzie 29 Geo Suthd 2nd 4/-5 David Matheson 6 Jas Suthd 3rd 30 Gilch^t Suth^d 4/-31 Jas Suthd 2nd 4/-7 John Suth^d 1st 32 John Suthd 2nd 4/-33 Corp¹ Jn Grant 5/-+ 3 Corp¹ A Gordon 5/being in all £6.17.6 Slr

¹⁵ See [page 39] where it mentions that there were tailors with the company in Ireland

Pay State from 15 to 21 March 1799 Co	
and from 22 nd to 28 March 1799 P ^d as	
Ensign McLeod's Detachm ^t at	Furlough men not included this date viz.
Mauchline	1 John Gunn F. 2 nd March & p ^d to 11 April
p ^d by me this date	2 John Cambell 1 st D ^o D ^o
1 Serj ^t John Matheson 7/-	3 Hugh McLeod 1st Do Do
2 Corp ^l John Matheson 5/- 2 nd p ^d +	4 Simon McKay Do Do
3 Corp ¹ Hugh Murray 5/-	5 Alex _r Munro 1 st D ^o D ^o
4 James Campbell 4/-	6 John Munro D° D°
5 Ang ^s Colquhoun 4/- 2 nd p ^d +	7 Lach ⁿ M ^c Kay D ^o D ^o
6 Alex ^r Davidson 4/-	8 Don ^d M ^c Kay D ^o D ^o
7 Ja ^s Davidson 4/-	9 Ja ^s Ross 1 st F. 4 March & p ^d to 11 April
8 Jas Donaldson 4/- + pd 1st	10 Ad ^m M ^c Kay D ^o D ^o
9 Hugh Douglass 4/-	11 John Murray 3 rd F. 4 March & p ^d to 11 April
10 Ja ^s Douglass 4/- + p ^d 1 st	12 Serj ^t Murray F. 5 D° & p ^d to 28 March
11 W ^m Graham 4/-	13 Alex ^r Ross 1 st F. 7 March & p ^d to 11 April
12 Ad ^m M ^c Aulay 4/- 2 nd p ^d +	14 Geo Murray D° D°
13 Rob ^t M ^c Kay 3 rd 4	15 Ang ^s Murray D ^o D ^o
14 Will ^m McKay 2 nd 4/-	NB I got this & last weeks pay from Major Suth ^d
15 Dun ⁿ M ^c Kenzie 4/- + p ^d 1 st 2 nd p ^d +	when he went away home 7 March 1799 being in all
16 Hector McKenzie 4/-	£36.3.0 for the 2 weeks subsistence but as Alex Ross
17 John McKenzie 4/-	1st was included in the above sum & that he has got
18 Hugh McIntosh 1st 4/-	a Furlough I am to return 8/- to Major Suth ^d when
19 Hugh McIntosh 3rd 4/-	he comes so that I have only paid the Co ^y for the 2
20 Donald McLeod 4/- 2nd pd +	weeks £35.15.0 Sl ^r as follows viz I paid Serj ^t Ross for
21 Will ^m Matheson 4/-	the men at Ayr £4.7.0 Sent to the Detachm ^t at
22 David Munro 4/-	Galston by David Ross 2 nd of our Co ^y £6.17.6 I paid
23 Donald Munro 4/-	the Detachm ^t at Mauchline £6.13.0
24 Hugh Munro 4/-	£17.17.6
25 Donald Murray 4/- + p ^d 1 st	NB Those that Rec ^d the first money & tickets at
26 Hugh Murray 4/-	Mauchline paid by myself are marked + after their
27 John Murray 1st 4/-	names & p ^d 1
28 Neil Murray 4/- + pd 1st	Those that R ^d the 2 nd tickets & money are marked
29 Rob ^t Murray 4/- 2 nd p ^d +	+2 nd p ^d thus
30 David Ross 2 nd 4/-	
31 Jas Suth ^d 1 st 4/-	
32 Jas Suth ^d 4/- + p ^d 1 st	
33 Dr Alexr Man of Major Clunes(?)	
4/- p ^d 1 st + 1	
NB the pay f ^m 15 to 21 & f ^m 22 to 28	
March 1799 is marked p ^d in the same	
manner as above	
Elgin 16 April 1799 I paid Major Suth nd	and this date the above mentioned 8/- overdrawn
for Alex ^r Ross 1 st	

[page 10]

Seeds for the Garden 1806¹⁶

1½ lb early framing peas

1½ do dwarf marrowfat peas

4 o^z Strasburgh onions

1 do blood red onion

1 do flag leek

1 do crasses(?)

½ do curled parsley

1 dross ice lettuce

1 oz orange carrot

1 pennyworth swelling parsnips

1 oz (?)early Dutch turnip

1 do yellow do

1 hundred early May cabbage

½ do large Annick do

½ do red cabbage

2 hundred German greens

1 Savoys

1 Lippy¹⁷ best early potatoes

All from Mr Cowan and paid.

Garden seeds in 1807 viz.

1½ lb early framing peas

1½ do dwarf marrowfat peas

4 o^z Strasburgh onions

1 o^z crasses(?)

½ o^z curled parsley

1 dross ice lettuce

1 o^z orange carrot

1 oz early Dutch turnip

1 o^z yellow turnip

1 oz flag leek

1 pennyworth swelling parsnip

Garden seeds in 1808 viz.

1 lb early framing peas -/8d

1 lb marrowfat do -/818

1 o^z Portugal onion 1/-

2 o^z Strasburgh onion 1/- each¹⁹

1 o^z flag leek

1 o^z orange carrot

1 o^z early turnip

1 pennyworth parsnip

1 pennyworth ice lettuce

1½ forpit²⁰ potatoes

All the above sown about the 8th April.

About 7/- or 8/-

½ forpit potatoes 2nd May set

1 hundred German greens -/9d

½ hundred Savoys -/8 both planted 9th May

I suppose the whole price for garden seeds

this year to be about 10/- as above

NB there was some potato and different

other seeds sown on 18 May 1808 also

yellow turnip 27 May 1808 and Welsh onion

in August

[Here 9 pages have been cut out of the book with scissors.]

¹⁶ He took a new job, and house in Bridgeton in April 1805. See 'Life' page 12

¹⁷ A lippy is a quarter of a peck, and a peck is 2 gallons – so half a gallon dry measure. QED

¹⁸ e.g 1/8 would mean 1 shilling and 8 pence etc.

¹⁹ Curious – perhaps the word transcribed 'oz' is actually something else ...

²⁰ A forpit ("fourth part") is a quarter of a stone – 3½ lbs

[page 27] Serjeant John Matheson's Story of some of his service with The 2nd Sutherland Fencible Regiment.²¹

Though a narrative of the life and transactions of an obscure individual, who has nothing remarkable to relate of himself cannot be of any material consequence to his friends after his death, still I think everyone (who is capable of doing it) ought to have a short memorandum of their transactions in life, which might be both useful and entertaining to themselves if they should happen to live to pursue it in old age, and if they would be honest and free in their narrative. No doubt many things might have been related in the lives of young men that might be a warning to their succeeding young relations, or such young persons as might have seen such narratives if properly and prudently narrated.

I was somehow so far of this opinion in my youth, and especially from the time I left my native county that I wrote a sort of a Journal of any particular thing I met with, having begun it with what I recollected of my past adventures, but the Regiment, having volunteered for Ireland, then in a complete state of Rebellion, my return again to Scotland was very uncertain, and my Journal which I intended to insert in a clean book, which I had no time to do at the time, happened not to be so clearly wrote as I could wish in case of its falling into the hands of others, I therefore burnt it with other papers and letters which I regret very much since to have done, as it should now enable me to continue the narrative on my return from Ireland. However as it so happened I shall only now record an account of our marching with perhaps a few remarks while in Ireland, and our return home to be disbanded at Fort George in 1799.

I have however wrote a very short abstract account of myself in a Pocket Book No. ... which I have done merely for the reasons and motives mentioned already in this page.²²

[page 28] The 2nd or Sutherland Fencible Regiment of Foot marched from Ayr Camp on Saturday 16 June 1798 and encamped that night at Girvan and marched from Girvan on Monday the 18 and encamped that night at Ballantrae, marched from Ballantrae on Tuesday 19, and encamped at Stranraer that night. Marched from Stranraer on Wednesday the 20thand embarked at Portpatrick at 2 o'clock p.m. and landed at Carrickfergus in Ireland at 7 o'clock Thursday a.m. the 21st June.

Then the half of the Reg^t marched to Belfast, and the other half remained at Carrickfergus to Saturday the 23rd June when they marched and joined the other half of the Reg^t at Belfast, where they all remained till the 29 June, when they marched for Lisburn and Hillsborough and from thence on the 30 June to Bambridge²³ and from Bambridge on Sunday the 1 July for Newry. And marched from Newry on the 2nd July and arrived that night at Dundalk where the whole Reg^t remained to the 5 July when the half marched for Drougheda, viz. the Flank Co^y, Col^s & L^t Col^s & Cap^t M^cKay's Comp^y.

²¹ See Irish rebellion of 1798 in Wikipedia and elsewhere

²² This presumably the "Diary"

²³ Now Banbridge

Saturday 14 July, 200 rank & file with Officers, non-com^d officers &c commanded by Major Alex^r Sutherland and also a part of the Dumfries-shire Fencible Cavalry [page 29] marched from Dundalk in pursuit of the rebels who were assembled to a considerable amount on the Boyne. We arrived that night at Ardee and marched from thence on Saturday 15 July and encamped at Old Bridgetown on the Boyne Water. We halted that day at The Speaker's House at Cullen²⁴ and got some refreshment of porter, bread and cheese etc from him. (I mean the Speaker of The House of Commons).

A part of our detachment went that night to Slane under the command of Captⁿ M^cDonald went that night to Slane. However the half of our Reg^t who were at Drougheda attacked and dispersed the Rebels on Saturday the 14 July (the day we marched from Dundalk). They took some prisoners and killed and wounded many, I am told some hundreds, but I do not know how many as I was not their myself, nor did I hear any official account given of them. On Monday the 16 July we marched back again to Ardee and on Tuesday the 17 July arrived back at Dundalk.

We remained at Dundalk till the 25 Aug^t when we got the Rout to march to join Marquis Cornwallis who was marching against the French & rebels in the north-west of Ireland. We arrived on the 25 at Ardee, on Saturday 26 at Kyles²⁵, on Monday 27 at Castlepollar(d) and on Tuesday 28 at Longford.

[page 30] Marched from Longford on Wednesday 29 Aug^t 1798 and having rested an go some refreshment at Ballymahon we arrived that night at Athlone where we joined the main army under Marquis Cornwallis.

This army made a very fine appearance on the high grounds about Athlone at least it was a very grand view to the most of our Reg^t who never saw above 5 or 6000 Military together in one place before, and whatever the amount of this army might have been we were informed there were at least 20000 that night encamped at Athlone, indeed very probably a great part of what was there never did see such a fine body of men before, and, in my opinion, a person might be in an army of 40 or 50,000 men that could not see the third or fourth part of them at one time, but in our march on the subsequent days we had sometimes an opportunity of seeing the greatest part of this body of men, and for my own part I think I would cheerfully go 50 miles at any time to see such a fine view and I have no doubt but many would go three times longer. The English Militia in particular made a very fine appearance though I saw, before the march was over, that they were too full and heavy to stand the fatigue of a long march. There were also some Hessian Cavalry who had a very warlike appearance, and the martial [page 31] appearance of the English Cavalry as well as the Scottish Fencible Cavalry was very admirable, at least very much so to me who never saw anything like it before.

 $^{^{24}}$ Collon, home of John Foster, $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$ Baron Oriel and last Speaker of the Irish House of Commons

²⁵ Kells

We marched from Athlone on Thursday the 30 Aug^t and encamped that night at Ballimore where we rested two nights, and marched on Saturday 1st Sept^r to Knock-hill, a place between Ballymore and Tuam, and again on Sunday 2nd Sept^r arrived at Tuam where we were encamped two nights and on Tuesday 4 Sept^r marched to Holy Mount, on Wednesday the 5 Sept^r marched for Ballyhargus, and on Thursday 6 Sept^r arrived at French Park. We marched on Friday th 7 Sept^r and arrived at French Park Carrick upon Shannon. We encamped at Carrick upon Shannon and was boiling some potatoes for supper, and preparing to go to bed when we were ordered to strike up our camp as quietly as possible and march. As the potatoes were not boiled enough for eating them we had to leave them and to pack up our camp kettles and tents etc and march. We marched as quietly as possible all night, having guides but unfortunately the guides, we were informed afterwards, brought us round by a road that was several miles off our proper course so that we had to turn back a long way on a certain road we took.

[page 32] When marching at night we passed through a small town on the strath of the Shannon that was in general brilliantly illuminated though it was some time before daylight, I think, in the morning. The people were all up and indeed they were well rewarded by the fine view they got of the army whose bright arms that, glittering in the light of the candles and torches, made a very grand appearance.

Having been now travelling²⁶ all night and the preceding day (excepting the short halt at Carrick on Shannon) the men were getting faint and weak and many of them by this time were lying down on the road side with their knapsacks under their head, in great danger of being trampled on by men, horses & carts &c. and so far as I could judge they were mostly (though not altogether) of these English Militia Regiments which I admired so much when I saw them first at Athlone, but upon the whole, before we halted next evening that is to say on the 8th at S^t Johnston there was not (I suspect) a Reg^t in that army but had several lying on the road or near it, or at least, they were falling behind their respective regiments.

As mentioned on the other side²⁷, by our going a long way off the right road and returning back again a certain distance to come to the right road, the [page 33] French and Rebels would have gotten the start of us completely, and got into the heart of the country, if not to the Capital, had not General Lake been detached some days before, another road, by a division of the army who fortunately came up with the enemy a little before the main army came in sight, so that we had only arrived in time to see the battle at a great distance, and the enemy surrendering, and the rebels running away and pursued by the cavalry &c. in all directions. However this cannot be called a battle as the French were but few in numbers though they fought valiantly and so far as I could understand the Rebels saw that they had no chance of success and therefore whenever the engagement took place they dispersed and ran. At least this was the information we had, for we were at too great distance ourselves to see, for we could hardly see the lines and flash of their guns, but we had a very clear view of the cavalry in pursuit of the Rebels when they broke their lines and ran off. The

²⁶ Text says 'travailing' which is a just about possible reading.

²⁷ i.e. on the preceding page

place where this affair took place was called Carnglanhaugh near Balnamuck²⁸, not far from S^t Johnston²⁹.

After the French surrendered their Commander-in-Chief (Humbert) and their other principal officers arrived at our camp, and so far as I understand went through the whole army, and [page 34] saw the different regiments. They were at the same time accompanied by some of the principal officers of the British army and a guard, after which the whole of the French were marched to Dublin etc. and the rebels that were taken were imprisoned for trial. There were some of them tried instantly and hanged. I saw six of them myself hung on one tree together, and of course there must have been many of them hanged throughout the whole encampment as I could see but little of it. However I saw enough to convince me of the misery and cruelty that must of necessity be the consequence of war, at least of Rebellion.

These wretched like creatures threw away the greatest part of their clothes, some of them to their very shirt, when they broke their lines and dispersed in order that they might be enabled to run the faster, and perhaps for other reasons, say that they knew that their own lives were forfeited, they would not wish their families to be discovered. For that reason they threw away their clothing and everything about them that might be the means of discovering their families and friends &c. And in that manner as there were no prisons or gaols to keep them, they were gathered in crowds and guarded in rings or guards of soldiers under the canopy of heaven and rain and dew of the night till their trials came on.

As they had all [page 35] a fair trial, though it took some days to try them all, and as their friends, at least some of them who were near hand, were admitted to see them, I never saw a more affecting sight than wives, mothers, sisters and other near relations tearing, wringing their hands together with all the other signs of grief and despair which of course must be attended with such an awful interview, which would be the last upon earth. As they knew they were taken in the very act of Rebellion they were sure they were to be launched to Eternity as soon as their trial would come on.

There were, however, some of these women who came to see them, so hardened as seemingly to be little affected but encouraged their sons & husbands & brothers &c., telling them that they were Martyrs for their Country and dying in a good and honourable cause, and suchlike phrases. And as they in general spoke the Irish language they made no scruple in expressing their minds freely, thinking that we would not understand them. However, I understood so far as to particular subjects, or at least a word here and there, so that I would understand now and then what they were saying. And although they were our enemies and the enemies of their country still I felt very much for their suffering, and I believe from what I had seen and heard that the greatest part of them sacrificed their lives for their country so far as they knew.

²⁸ This was the *Battle of Ballinamuck* (Co Longford) 'the defeat of the main force of the French incursion during the 1798 Rebellion' (*Wikipedia*)

²⁹ St Johnstown, now Ballinalee

[page 36] However the affair of the 8 of Aug^t September 1798 gave the finishing stroke to the Rebellion in Ireland at this time, and on the 12 Sept^r the different Regiments marched for their respective quarters.

On Wednesday 12 Sept^r our regiment arrived and encamped at Phinea³⁰ near Oldcastle, and on Thursday the 13 arrived at Kells; on Friday the 14 arrived at Ardee, and on Saturday the 15 September arrived at our old quarters at Dundalk.

After an excursion of about three weeks through the north-west of Ireland during which time I did not change my shirt, except on the 11 September, I put it off and was washing it in a stream before the camp when a soldier's wife newly arrived from Athlone observed me and insisted that she would do it better herself. And as she was the wife of one of our own company I allowed her to finish the washing of the shirt and she got it dried as soon as she could, and though not dressed I had now a clean shirt. The privates had their knapsacks with some few things but I had nothing as I left my trunk at Athlone with the heavy baggage which we got back again quite safe to Dundalk. We had all haversacks and canteens where we carried our provisions.

This march though short, and would be a mere trifle in the eyes of a veteran soldier, was by us, who knew nothing of fatigue felt as a specimen of hardship. We however returned to our quarters at [page 37] Dundalk just as well and healthy as when we went away, only a little shabby in our appearance as our clothes were dirty.

I must confess that on the 8 Sept^r when the army arrived at St. Johnston they seemed to be very fatigued having marched a night and two days without a halt. What distance they marched during that time I know not³¹, but that I know, that not above the half of the army arrived in their ranks on the ground of encampment. However they kept up well in general till they saw that the French surrendered and that other rebels were dispersed. After that they began to fall behind, perhaps more from curiosity than from fatigue, in order that they might see the cavalry in pursuit of the rebels in all directions; that they might also see the French, now prisoners and also that they might have an opportunity of seeing the different regiments as they came up to the ground of encampment, as they were all by this time going quite slow, the business having been all settled.

However it was my lot to mount guard immediately, and as I had nothing to carry on the march and moderately well supplied with bread and Spirits, having fortunately got some Spirits at Carrick on Shannon and Tuam, in my canteen which served me on the road occasionally, so that whatever others suffered I was quite well, only that my hose and shoes were completely in rags and still, my feet were not blistered nor very sore.

[page 38] We marched from Dundalk on Tuesday the 21 Sept^r 1798 and arrived at Newry, where the whole regiment remained till Thursday the 27 Dec^r 1798, when they marched in two divisions for Belfast, the first on the 27 & the second on the 28, each division halting

³⁰ Finnea

³¹ Just to judge by distances on modern maps between the named stops, they marched anything from 20Km to nearly 40Km every day.

one night at Drumore³² and Hillsburgh³³. The Reg^t remained at Belfast till the 3 January 1799 when the first division embarked for Scotland, on the 4 the second division embarked at 8 o'clock a.m. and landed at Ballantrae at 11 o'clock a.m. Saturday 5 January 1799. I was with this second division. We marched on Monday the 7th for Girvan. The Reg^t marched in 5 divisions and the whole arrived at Ayr on Saturday the 13 January 1799, nearly seven months from the time we left it, and fully as well as when we left it.

And in justice to the Irish Nation I must record of them that I never met with more undeserved and unmerited kindness than I did while among them. They are a very hospitable, generous people, at least the merchants or shopkeepers and the middle rank of tradesmen &c. in their towns with whom I had the most conversation and intercourse. For my own part I shall always remember with gratitude the liberality and kindness of the families with whom it was my lot to lodge while in Ireland, and particularly the family of [page 39] Mr. John Bell, Merchant, High Street, Newry. Indeed, both poor and rich are more generous, kind and warm-hearted than what they are in general represented to be. I am, however, almost³⁴ tempted to think that they are not the same people when they come to Scotland as what they are at home, or that it is only the very worst of them that comes in general to Scotland. But this is no doubt an erroneous opinion, for no doubt good and bad comes to Scotland as well as to England. But be this as it may, I never met with more disinterested kindness nor even with as much as I did among them. However I shall at present leave them as I got them and follow the Sutherland Fencibles for a short time yet.

On Saturday the 9 March our company marched from Ayr in two detachments, the first to Galston under the command of L^t W^m Grant, and the second to Mauchline under Ensign M^cLeod. I was with the latter detachment. Our tailors and recruits remained at Ayr and we had also 15 of our company on furlough. We joined the Reg^t again at Ayr on Tuesday 26 March 1799 when the first division (4 Co^s) marched to Kilmarnock: the 2 division (3 Co^s) marched for the same place on Wednesday 27th in which division I was, and we marched from Kilmarnock to Glasgow on Thursday 28 and from Glasgow to Kilsyth on Friday the 29 March.

[page 40] We marched from Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth Saturday the 30 March and arrived at Stirling. Remained 2 nights and marched on Monday the 1st April from Stirling to Auchterarder, and from Auchterarder to Perth Tuesday 2 April and to Coupar in Angus on Monday the 3 April and to Forfar on Thursday the 4th and Brechin on Friday the 5th and to Laurencekirk on Saturday the 6th April and to Stonehaven on Monday the 8th. To Aberdeen on Tuesday the 9th and to Kintore and Inverurie on Wednesday the 10th and to Huntly on Thursday the 11th and to Fochabers on Friday 12th and to Elgin on Saturday the 13th where we remained to Friday the 19 April, when we marched that day to Nairn. We marched from Nairn to Fort George on Saturday the 20 April 1799 on which day we were disbanded or

³² Dromore

³³ Hillsborough

³⁴ He writes 'almosted'

discharged, I mean the division with which I was.³⁵ The first division was discharged on the 19th the second division on the 20th and the third and last division on Monday the 22 day of April 1799 at Fort George.

The Reg^t was embodied at Inverness about 6 years ago, and have since that time been through almost every town in Scotland, together with the short time they have been in Ireland as related in the preceding pages. They were a fine body of men, upwards of a thousand strong.

³⁵ John marched for 15 days (plus a few rest days) to get from Glasgow to Fort George, which must have been most of 230 miles though the exact route is uncertain – around 15 miles per day. That was 1799. His sister Ann's son Donald Murray was living in Glasgow in i855 when, as he records in his journal, he (Donald) went back to visit the family home in Sutherland. He left Rutherglen on a Monday at 4.30pm by train for Edinburgh and then sailed by steamer to Cromarty (via Nairn), arriving at Cromarty at 2am on the Thursday, i.e. two and a half days later.

After this story, there are some blank pages with evidence of a number of pages having been cut or torn out. Then one page not related to anything else in the book.

[page ...]

Memorandum Sept ^r 7 th 1804	£	Shs	Ds
To Sundries from 10 Sept ^r 1799 to 10 Sept ^r 1804 as under, viz			
To cash of my own brought with me from Sutherland, together with some			
of the cash I left there, that was sent to that was sent to me at different			
times afterwards in all	15	10	-
To my wages &c from the 10 th Sept ^r 1799 to the 7 th Sept ^r 1804 in all	142	1	4½
To sundries 10 th Sept ^r 1804 including keeping a night school & clerking for sundries	18	12	3½
Total expenses from the 10 th Sept ^r 1799 to the 10 th Sept ^r 1804 as above	176	3	8
Deduct the above two sums of £15.10.0 and the other sum of sundries			
18.12.3½	34	2	3½
Being the amount of my earnings as wages for the above mentioned period of 5 years	142	1	4½
Which amounts only per annum to	28	8	31/4
My expenses amounting per annum to	35	4	8¾
So that for the above five years my expenses per annum exceeded my regular wages by	6	16	5½
And on the whole of the five years my expenses exceed my regular wages	34	2	3½
which sum of £34.2.3½ consisted of money I either got from home, or brought with me viz £15.10.0 And £18.12.3½ earned by extra work as already mentioned above			

John Matheson's brother George was drowned in the Meikle Ferry Disaster of 16 August 1809. He died leaving a pregnant wife and three young daughters (born 1802, 1803, 1806). A son was born posthumously in the following March. The family was living at Brea and was also supporting George and John's widowed mother Helen Matheson. As soon as John got the news in Glasgow he hurried north (on the 29th). The remaining pages of the memorandum book contain (1) lists of the animals belonging to the widows; (b) a description of his journey north – he was away from Glasgow for just over three weeks; (3) an account of a chest with contents sent to Glasgow – presumably items not needed by the ladies; (4) an note (by John) concerning some notes (by brother Hugh) about the estate of their brother William who died in 1803.

[page 54] Memorandum of Beasts (say cattle) belonging to the widow and children of my brother George, Breay Dalnamain 12th September 1809, viz.

- 3 milch cows that were all bulled this year
- 2 heifers both bulled this year
- 1 cow that had no calf this year, but is now bulled
- 1 heifer³⁶ supposed to be bulled this year
- 13 year old heifer not bulled
- 1 2 year old D°
- 1 1 year old D°
- 13 year old stirk³⁷
- 2 2 year old Do
- 2 calves
- 15 head of cattle as above mentioned in all,
- 3 mares in good condition
- 1 mare Do. but is old
- 1 garron³⁸ in good condition
- 5 horses in all as above mentioned.
- 10 sheep 2 years old
- 12 lambs
- 22 sheep in all as above mentioned.
- 3 she goats.
- 2 he goats
- 2 kids

7 goats in all as above mentioned

[page 55] Memorandum of cattle &c belonging to my mother 12 September 1809, viz.

2 milch cows of which 1 is bulled

³⁶ Usually a cow that has not yet had a calf

³⁷ Usually a cow or bullock up to 2 years old

³⁸ Usually a small highland pony, but in Gaelic the word specifically means a gelding.

- 1 heifer bulled
- 1 heifer not bulled two years old
- 2 calves
- 6 beasts in all of black cattle as above
- 1 old garron
- 6 sheep
- 5 lambs
- 2 wedders³⁹ 2 year old
- 13 sheep in all
- 3 she goats
- 1 he goat
- 1 young D°
- 2 kids
- 7 goats in all

I should have mentioned the crop which is all on hand this date belonging to my brother's widow & children, and the crop belonging to my mother, together with their household furniture & clothing &c. Also their farm utensils etc, which in all should come to a considerable sum. For each of them exclusive of ready cash.

³⁹ Usually a castrated male sheep

[page 56] A Journey to the Shire of Sutherland and back again to Glasgow in the year I809 viz. I left Glasgow at 8 o'clock am on Tuesday 29 Aug^t per the Perth Coach and arrived that night at the Salutation Inn Perth. I left Perth on Wednesday 30 Aug^t at 4 o'clock pm. Halted at Dunkeld to change horses and at Mulinarn⁴⁰ to refresh the same horses. At Blair in Atholl for supper, being nearly midnight. We met the Coach for Edinburgh here, and sent back two of the horses with it. We arrived at Dalnacardoch at 4 o'clock in the morning of Thursday the 31 Aug^t and changed horses. Arrived at Dalwhinnie at 9 o'clock and took breakfast. Set off and arrived at Aviemore where we changed horses. Stopped also a little at Pitmain⁴¹ to refresh the horses. Set off and changed horses at the Bridge of Carr. Dined at Freeburn⁴² at 4 o'clock and arrived at Inverness at half past 7 o'clock afternoon, Thursday 31 Aug^t 1809, being only 27½ hours from Perth to Inverness p^r the Inverness coach. I remained that night with M^r W^m Fraser at Inverness and went off after breakfast on Friday the 1 Sept^r cross Kessock & Inverbreachy⁴³ and was in Tain that night. I left Tain on Saturday the 2 Sept^r and arrived that night at Breay at my home (once) and within a mile of where I was born.

I remained in Sutherland **[page 57]** from Saturday the 2nd to Thursday the 14th September 1809 when I left the place where I spent the happy days of my youth, and very probable never to see it again (but that is only known to God). I arrived at Tain on Thursday the 14 Sept^r and at Inverness on Friday the 15 where I remained among my friends till Monday the 18 Sept^r when I came away for Glasgow. I walked before the coach in the morning to the Bridge of Carr, where I joined the coach. We halted at Aviemore, dined at Pitmain and arrived that night at Dalwhinnie. We set off in the morning, took breakfast at Dalnacardoch. I left the coach their and walked cross the hill and was that night at Corrymuckrach⁴⁴. On Wednesday the 20 Sept^r I took breakfast at Crieff, dined at Stirling where I joined the Perth coach and arrived at Glasgow at 11 o'clock at night, being away three weeks and one day.

Expenses on the above Journey

To the Coach to Perth	£1: 2: 0
To the Coach from Perth to Inverness	2: 17: 6
To the Coach f ^m Bridge of Carr to Dalnacardoch	1: 3: 0
To the Coach from Stirling to Glasgow	: 9: 0
To Guards & Drivers on the road, in all	: 10: 6
Total Expenses for the Coach as above	£6: 2: 0
Total other necessary expenses on the road	£5: 16: 3½
Total expenses exclusive of some few trifling	£11:18: 3½
presents given to sundries, perhaps about	£ 2: 1: 8½
	f14: 0: 0

⁴⁰ Moulinearn, south of Pitlochry

⁴¹ At Kingussie i.e. before reaching Aviemore

⁴² Freeburn Hotel, Tomatin

⁴³ Inverbreakie, Invergordon

⁴⁴ Corrymuckloch (NN 894 345) south of Amulree, His route must have been something like Dalnacardoch – Tummel Bridge – Aberfeldy – Amulree – Corrymuchloch. I think there's a Wade Road for much of that. Google Maps makes it 33 miles.

[page 58]

When I was in Sutherland I packed up a chest with the following goods viz

Value of the chest itself, about £0: 12: 0 30 yards of blankets value 1/6 2: 5: 0 18 lbs butter @ 1/6 1: 7: 0 8½ pints of whisky with the cask 2: 11: 0 5 pairs of stockings, coarse, & some yarn for stockings, 5 spoons & a Fife, 1 sword & 2 small books etc. : 10: 6 £7: 5: 6

The chest having been stopped at Burghead on suspicion of its containing whisky, was got away by a friend who sold the whisky for £2:1:9, and packed the chest up again with 12 doz. dry fish and sent it sway to Glasgow after deducting the following expence, 13/6 for sundries, & 4/- for postage including my letters to and from Burghead. There was 4/6 for expenses at the Little Ferry and 16/10 at Glasgow, consequently the transaction stands as follows:-

Brought down chest value	£7: 5: 6
Paid at the Little Ferry 4/6, Burghead I3/6	18: 0
At Glasgow 16/10 and postage 4/-	1: 0:10
Lost on the whisky sold at Burghead	9:3
	2: 8: 1
Total value after paying expenses as above	£ 4:17:5

There were some small cheeses & sundry things in the chest that were damaged. If I was to value the whole it would amount to £9 or 9 guineas prime cost, but every thing [page 59] was so much damaged by the cask leaking that the 9 guinea worth would not be worth than the £4:17:5 mentioned on the other side⁴⁵. When the man in Burghead sold the whisky he bought 12 doz. dry fish which he packed in the chest as mentioned on the other side and he sent me the balance of silver in the chest, being 15/6. Their were also in the chest exclusive of what was already mentioned 10 lib butter for Neil Matheson & a pair of stockings for Ja⁵ Bruce, which they both got. The whisky leaked about a pint before it was sold, so that all that was sold was 7½ pints @ 5/6, being £2: 1: 9 as already mentioned.

My brother's watch which I bought from his widow for £3 when I was at home in Sept^r 1809 is marked as follows: R. Cunningham, Liverpool, N°. 8325, being the same which I sent him in 1806 from Glasgow and for which I paid £3: 11: 0.

I rec ^d when at home then for a stirk which was sold	£3
I rec ^d also for younger heifer both my own property	2: 10: 0
I rec ^d as balance of money due to John for a beast	
which was sold of his some time ago	1: 7:0
	£6: 17: 0

⁴⁵ i.e. previous page

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[page 60]

Some old memorandum wrote by Hugh my brother, in June 5th 1804 of which the following is the substance viz

September 6th 1803. Divided this date viz to the following persons as follows, ⁴⁶ John, 1 cow, 1 heifer, 1 year old beast, 1 mare & 1 colt George, 1 cow, 1 ox, 1 stirk & 1 mare Elspet, 1 cow with calf, 1 heifer, 1 stirk & 1 gerran Ann, 1 cow with calf, 1 heifer, 1 stirk & 1 gerran Hugh, 1 cow, 1 stirk, 1 mare & 1 colt For the house, 1 cow, 1 stirk, 1 mare & 1 gerran John Junior ⁴⁷, 1 stirk

And the whole of the above exclusive of the sheep and the goats is as follows viz.

6 cows, 3 heifers, 6 stirks, 1 ox, 1 year-old heifer, 2 calves, 4 mares, 3 gerrans, 2 colts; being in all 19 black cattle and 9 horses, exclusive sheep and goats which are not mentioned in the above memorandum,

The debt due by the whole family at the same date is viz.

William Sutherland, Strathtolly	£1: 1:0	Neil Matheson £	-: 4: 0
John Mckay, Muiy	: 15: 0	Major Sutherland	1: 0: 0
Meran Urchet, serv ^t .	: 6:0	Donald McKenzie	2: 6
Murdoch McIntosh	: 15: 0	Widow Murray ⁴⁸	17: 0
Janet Ross serv ^t	: 7: 0	Donald Fraser	4: 0
Alexander McKay boy	: 5: 0	John Matheson, Torboll	2: 6
	3: 9: 0		2:10: 0
			<u>3: 9: 0</u>
			5: 19: 0

[page 61] The memorandum on the other side does not mention how much money was indebted to the house at the same date, though no doubt ii will be marked elsewhere, only one sum by one person of £7: 0: 0 which I know myself to have been paid since. There are several other memorandums and receipts which are left in Brae and a few memorandums I have tied up in a bunch together which in a short time may be burnt as I think their contents are all settled when I was at home in 1809. I did not hear of anything due by my mother or my brother's family.

 $^{^{46}}$ It's not made explicit, but this may refer to dividing up the possessions of Hugh and John's brother William, who died in 1803

⁴⁷ John Matheson's illegitimate son, mentioned on page 6 of the "Diary"

⁴⁸ something indecipherable follows the name