

# FERRY DISASTER RECALLED

## Fund Details in Document

THE recent note in "The Northern Times" on the Meikle Ferry disaster of 1809, when 99 people were drowned on the way from the Sacraments at Tain, brought an interesting document from Mr H. Sutherland, 16 Rhymer Street, Glasgow. Yellowed with age and written in ink by, presumably, an ancestor of Mr Sutherland, it gives, on ordinary cash-ruled paper, record of the payments made by the Committee for Managing the Meikle Ferry Fund. The homely script and the almost medieval description of the circumstances of the dead and their dependants are painstaking, and gone era, even in the massed race of death.

The fund reached a total of £509 15s—a large sum in these days to be raised from people in the surrounding districts who "were counted rich at £40 a year."

The account which Mr Sutherland has sent the "Northern Times" is, so far as can be deciphered, signed by R. Sutherland, chairman of the committee. It is entitled in minute script, "First Report of the Committee for Managing the Meikle Ferry Fund, 16th August, 1909."

### NAMES OF VICTIMS

names of the victims under their native places of residence (with the original spelling in each case), are:—

**DORNOCH**—Hugh M'Culloch, Philip M'Kay (blacksmith), William Munro, Angus Sutherland, Isobel Sutherland (wife of a militiaman), A. M'Kay (shoemaker) and Jane M'Kay (his sister), Isabel Leslie, Charlotte Grant, Margaret Clark, George Munro, Barbara M'Leod (married to a militiaman), Betsy M'Kenzie (wife of Sgt Gordon), Sgt Morrison and Mrs Morrison, Sgt H. Munro, Corporal John Murray, John Leslie (merchant), Barbara M'Kay (wife of John Campbell), Cathrine Ross.

**ACHLACH**—Robert Gordon (soldier), Alexander Campbell and Margaret (his wife), Margaret Ross, Kessagach.

**CLASHMUGACH**—Robert Gordon, John Grant, Wm. M'Dugald (soldier).

**ASDALE OF REARCHER**—Alexander Matheson, Hugh Munro, John Sutherland, Alex. M'Kay, Kate M'Kurchy, Janet M'Kay Allan.

**FLUCHARY**—Margaret Calder, Grizel Grant.

**TENAGRANE**—Charlotte Grant.

**EVELICK**—Wm. Murray, John Leath.

**EMBO**—Annie Campbell (wife of W. Ross, fisher), Barbara Sutherland, Wm Leslie and Helen Leslie (his sister), James Grant.

**COUL**—Janet M'Kay Davie.

### ~~FERRYMEN~~ LOST

**ACHVANDRA**—Janet M'Kay Baillie.

**BALVRAID**—Alex. M'Kay Bain, Betty Matheson and George (her son).

**BREA**—George Matheson.

**ACHDADUIG**—Merran Gray.

**CYDERHALL**—Widow Matheson and Alexander (her son).

**MEIKLE FERRY**—Donald Chisholm (ferryman), Wm Sutherland (ferryman).

**CULMALY**—Robert M'Donald.

**DUNROBIN**—Elspat M'Donald.

**BACKIES**—Hugh M'Gregor (left dependant sister).

**GOLSPY**—Janet Sutherland (wife of Alex. Bain, fisher) and her daughter, Wm Cresick and his wife.

**ABENCROSS**—Elspet M'Kenzie, Margaret M'Kay.

**MORVICH**—Easter Murray (daughter of John Murray).

Parish of **ROGART**, Eiden—James Gordon, John M'Donald, Alexar Henderson, and Janet M'Donald.

**ACHELLIE**—John Ross.

**RIMUSAG**—Ch. M'Kintosh (wife of John M'Kintosh).