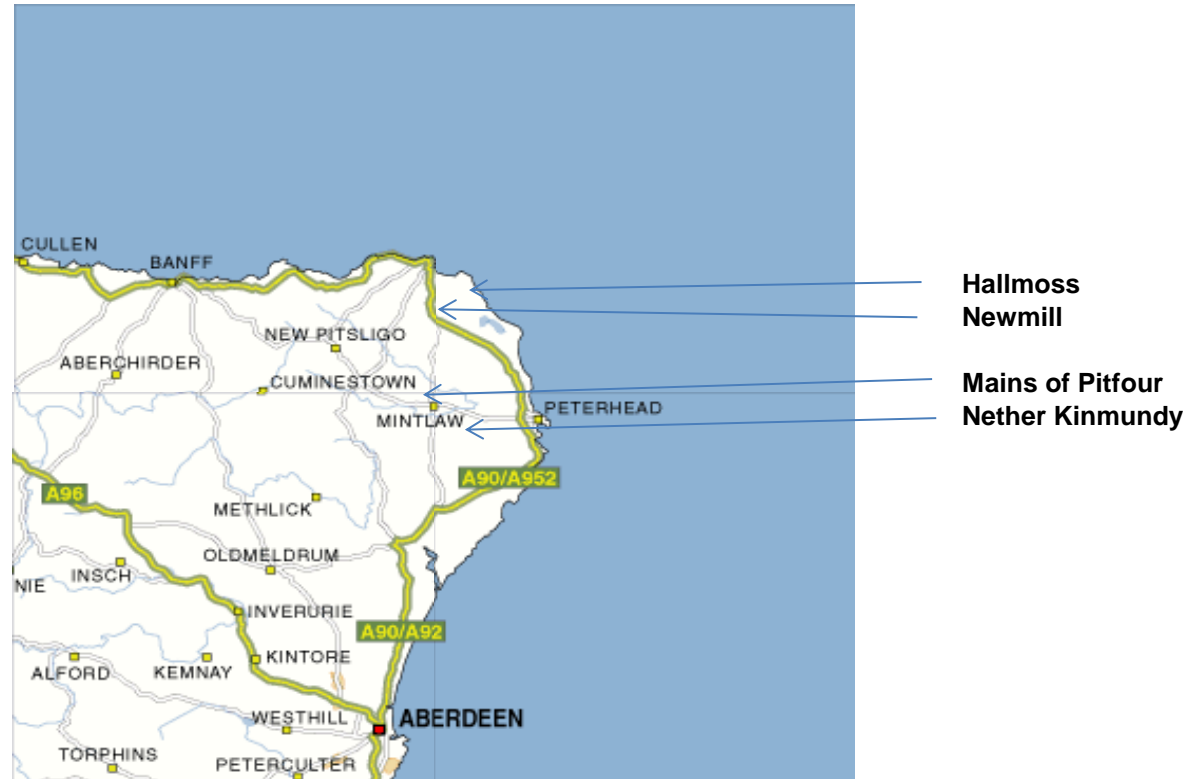


Locations of farms where Pennys lived

The farms where the Pennys lived can be relatively difficult to locate - here is a bigger picture:-



Those indicated above - Hallmoss, Newmill, Mains of Pitfour and Nether Kinmundy were all tenanted by people in my direct family line. Research has not shown any actually owned by any Pennys in my direct line.

Hallmoss and Newmill are in the Parish of Rathen.

History at:-

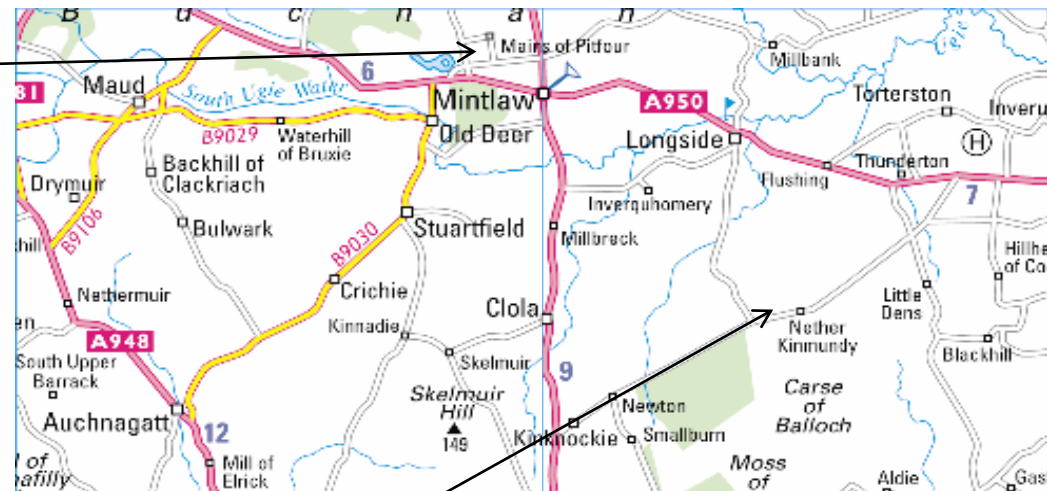
<http://www.scottish-places.info/parishes/parhistory211.html>

Map at:-

<http://www.scottish-places.info/parishes/parmap211.html>



Mains of Pitfour is just north-west of Mintlaw.



Nether Kinmundy Home Farm is about 4 miles from Longside & about 6 miles west of Peterhead.

Mossend or hillend, from the Gaelic, are as close as can be traced for the derivation of "Kinmundy".

Relatively difficult to find as these farms may be (notwithstanding Google maps!), they are well served by a comprehensive road network. If we wind back over four generations this part of the country had a rail network from 1861 to 1965 (see page 72). Running through farming country they would have enabled transport of produce and livestock to markets. The Great North of Scotland Railway from Aberdeen to Huntly had a junction at Dyce to Maud branching to Peterhead and Fraserburgh. With stations at Philorth, Rathen, Inverugie, Longside and Mintlaw one can imagine generations of Pennys personally making use of this transport - including my father.

In the book "Old Mintlaw and Longside" by Donna M Donald, reference is made to Aden House (originally mentioned in the 9th/10th century Book of Deer) and its estate becoming in the 17th century part of the "massive Kinmundy Estate". Old Deer churchyard has sepulchres of Kinmundy families. Pitfour estate was added to Kinmundy estate to create in the 1700s one of the largest agricultural estates in Scotland at the time.

It appears Kinmundy predates Longside (that village being founded in the early 19th century. The Kinmundy Estate belonged to John Gordon of Pitlurg when it became the free barony of Kinmundy in 1588. His son, Robert Gordon, was the first graduate of Aberdeen's Marischal College and was grandfather of the founder of Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen a prestigious school for boys (now co-ed). My father attended both the school and the college (now a university).

In 1723 the Kinmundy Estate changed hands being purchased by James Ferguson adding to his already extensive property in the north east. Kinmundy House (within half a mile of the Home Farm) was built around 1736. In 1745 the house was plundered and almost burnt down in the Jacobite Rebellion - Lady Kinmundy supported the Government side and incurred the wrath of Gordon of Glenbucket's Highlanders. It appears that around 1795 the estate passed to Thomas Arbuthnot, merchant of Peterhead.

The picture below was taken in the 1880s. The roof was removed in the 1950s and parts of it became derelict others converted into farm buildings.



Looking at the styles of this building and others in the vicinity in old photographs it is still difficult to assess the age of Nether Kinmundy Home Farm and Hallmoss Farm - maybe first half of the 19th century or late 18th century? A 1920s picture of Nether Kinmundy Home farm is in the Alexander Penny section of this booklet and a 2011 one in the Norman Penny section.

Hallmoss Farm is north-west of Hallmoss, Inverugie, Peterhead

This is a view of the farm house on its own:-
Photo taken February 2009.



And this is the bigger picture:-

A more extensive enterprise than in the last quarter of the 1700s when Charles Penny farmed there!



Photo © [Copyright Ken Fitlike](#)

Mains of Pitfour Farm is north-west of Mintlaw



Picture courtesy of Google Street View.

A fascinating history of the Pitfour estate, its owners etc. is at:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pitfour_estate

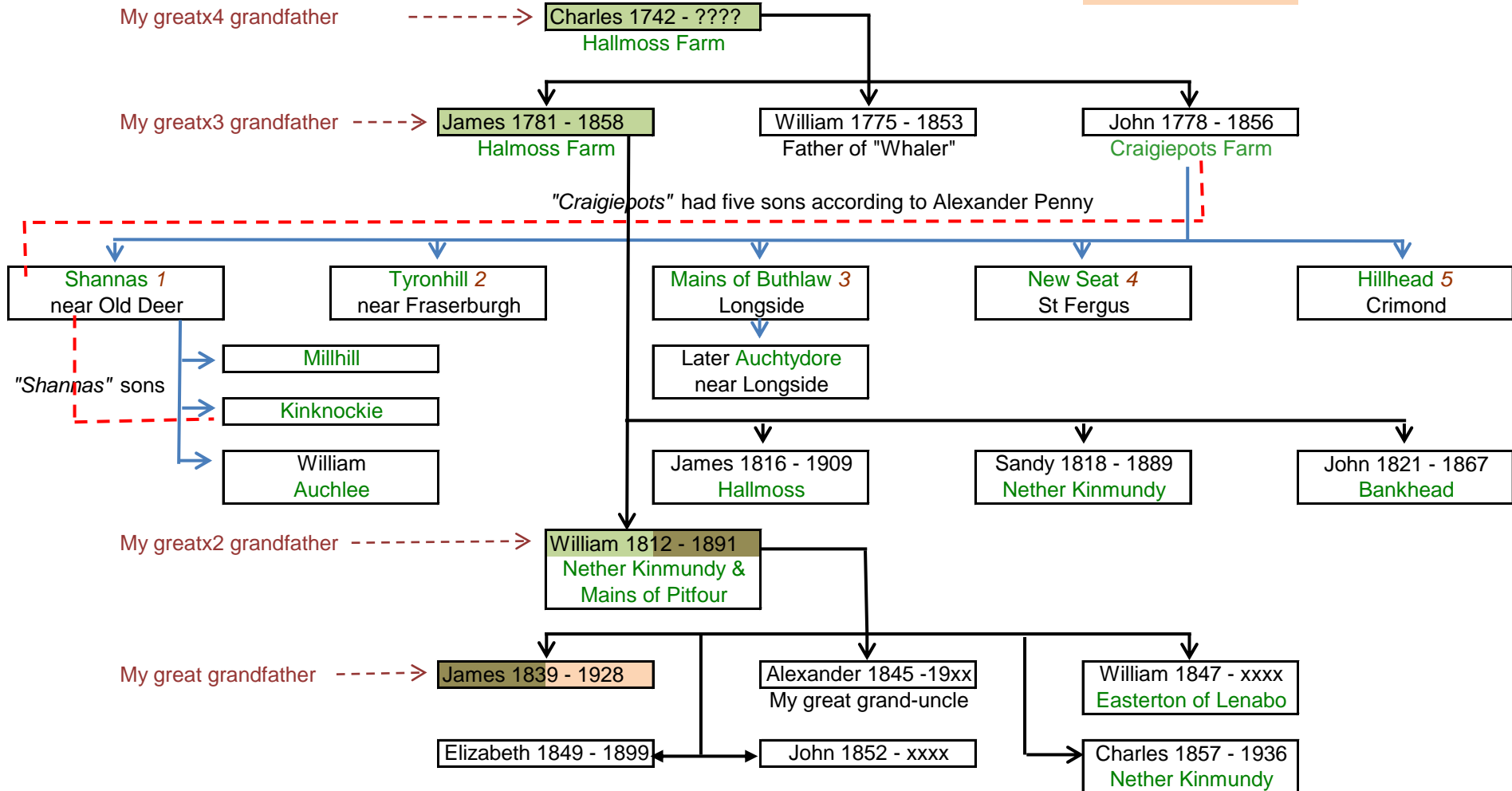
Other Pennys (several closely related) farmed at Lonmay, Inverallochy, Lenabo, Mintlaw, Strichen etc. Largely based on information from Alexander Penny's "Reminiscences" book, I have been able to make connections between other relatives and specific farms across Buchan.

Alexander (born 1845) was my pivot point for relating these wider family members to my family line. Alexander himself is my great grandfather's brother (my great grand-uncle).

More Penny farms and an extended Family Tree

The coloured boxes relate to the birth and death locations of farming people in my direct family line.
Shaun Penny connections? - - - - - see notes on page 20.

Hallmoss, Rathen
Nether Kinmundy
Peterculter



From Alexander's text, it looks like the nickname "Craigiepots" was for John Penny at Craigiepots farm - similarly for the Penny at Shannas.

Expansion on notes from previous page:

John Penny was born at Rathen, died at Longside (Buthlaw) and is buried at St Combs graveyard.

It seems "Craigiepots" had more than five sons namely, Charles, John, William, James, Alexander, Joseph, Robertson & George.

Farms and farmers were:-

- 1 Shannas - Charles b 1801 d 1886;
- 2 Tyronhill - no info;
- 3 Mains of Buthlaw (later Auchtydore) - John b 1812 d 1896
- 4 New Seat - Alexander b 1821 d 1869
- 5 Hillhead - no info.

Photographs of headstones at St Combs.

When I was exploring St Combs cemetery I found this gravestone of my great, great grand uncle who was the tenant of Hallmoss farm for 73 years. He was the brother of William (1812 to 1891) - my great, great grandfather who is buried in Longside Church cemetery.



New Seat - Alexr Penny b 1821 d 1869.

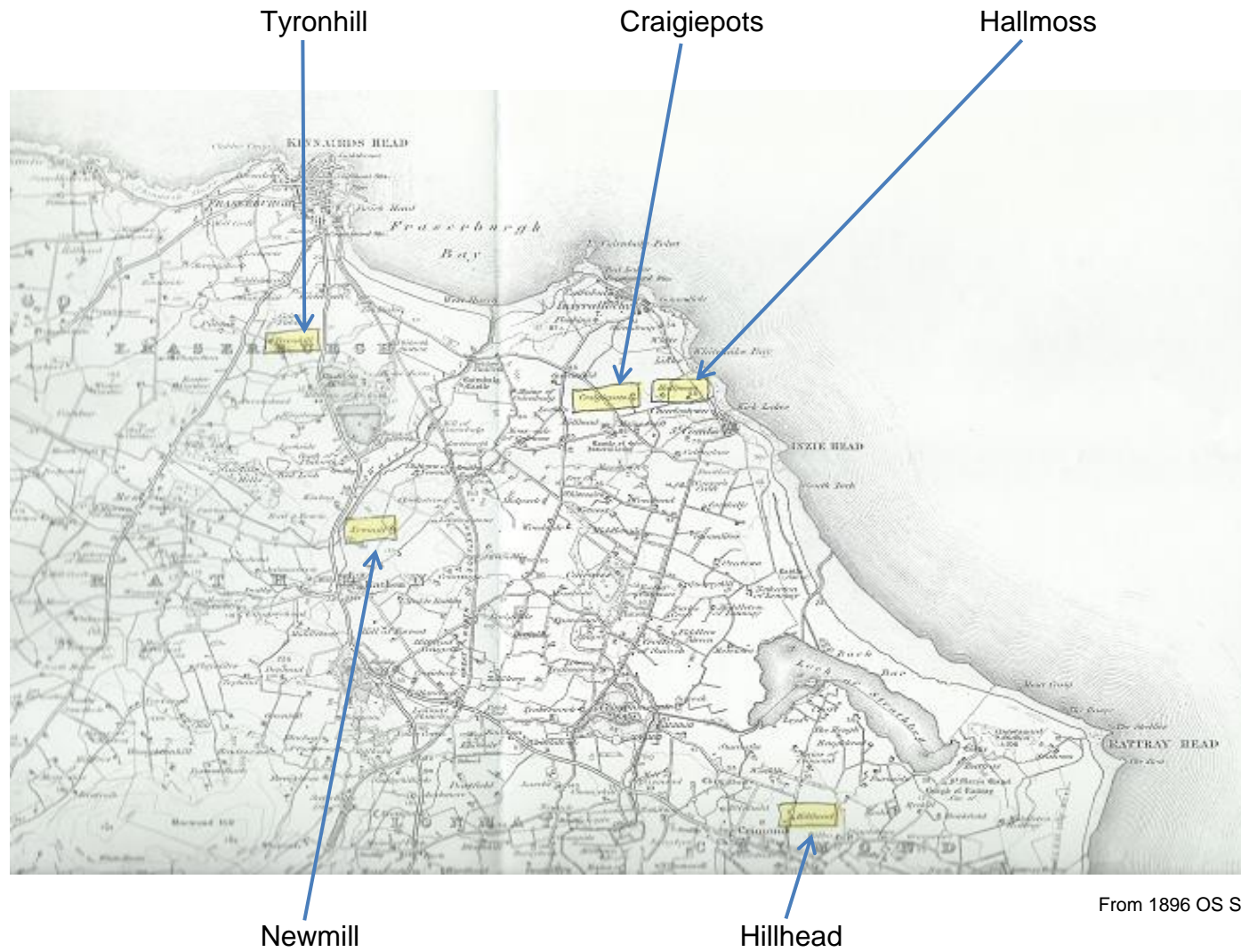


Hallmoss - James Penny b 1816 d 1909



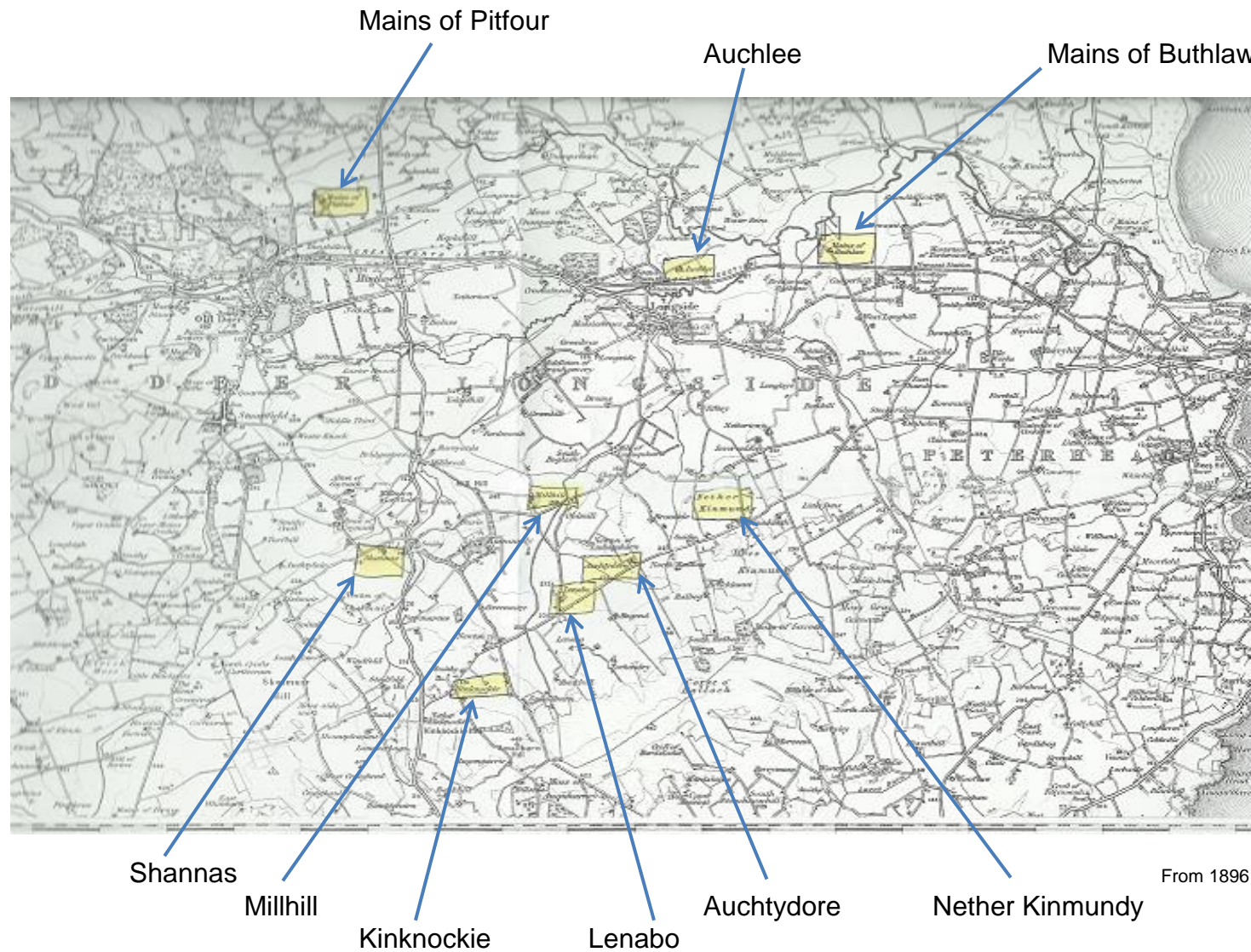
Shannas - Charles Penny b 1801 d 1886.

More Penny farms - locations near Fraserburgh



From 1896 OS Sheet 97 - Fraserburgh

More Penny farms - locations near Peterhead



Prospective Family Connections - Shannas Farm

In May 2024 I was contacted by Shaun Penny who was not sure if he and I are related but his father was James Penny of Kinknockie therefore with a connection to Charles (1801 - 1886) of Shannas farm. Like myself, Shaun's father is also a "James". Shaun said he is in contact with John Penny of Shannas who's mother & father are still working the farm in their 80's. It seemed that according to my family tree John's grandfather & my grandfather would be brothers but this is not the case. However, Shaun contacting me prompted further research into Shannas with the discovery that it is well known as a Limousin farm.



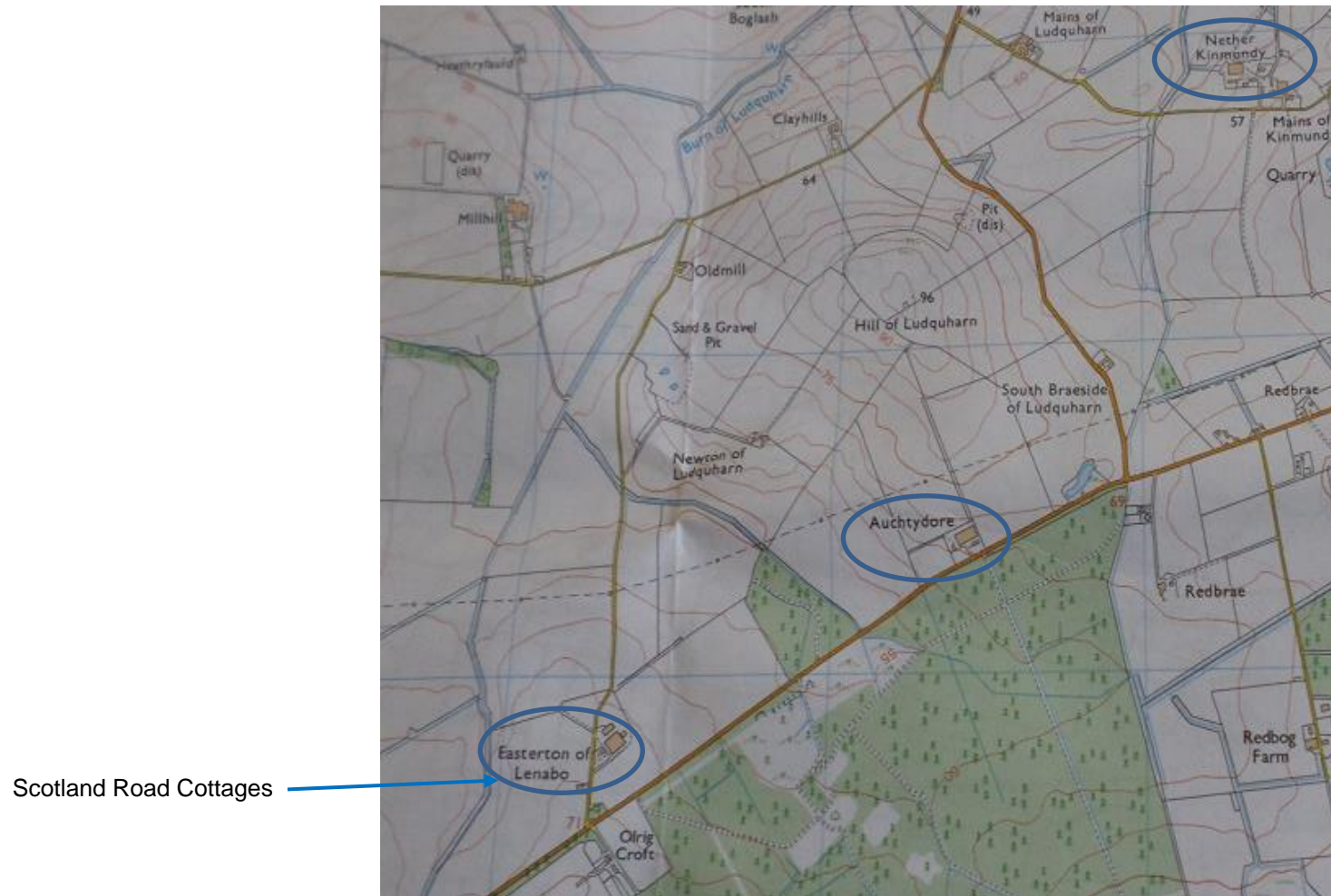
John and Margaret Penny run the 120-cow herd at Shannas near Mintlaw. The couple farm 480 acres near Mintlaw and run 120 pedigree Limousins. Photograph from 29 Feb 2024 Press & Journal.

Shannas farm →



My family connections - Nether Kinmundy and Lenabo

My great, great grandfather - William (born 1812) farmed Nether Kinmundy Home Farm from the late 1840s. His son, my great grandfather James, seems to have taken over and certainly farmed there in the times of the 1871 and 1881 Censuses. My grandfather George was brought up at Scotland Road Cottage, Easterton of Lenabo. Charles Penny – my great grand-uncle (died 1936) was the last Penny to farm at Nether Kinmundy.



My family connections - Nether Kinmundy and Lenabo

