

Kinlochailort Police Station 1897 - 98
R91/DC/5/14/1 at Fort William Archives

The first entry is April 19th 1897 and the last on October 2nd 1898. 18 months.
There are about 250 pages and the top of each is marked "Daily Journal of Duty performed by P.C. Mackay Stationed at Kinlochailort".

1897

Monday April 19. "At 1pm left Fort William per instructions of Inspector Chisholm and proceeded by Mail Coach to Kinlochailort where I arrived at 7pm and patrolled about the Hotel to 10.30 pm. Travelled 30 miles on duty 9½ hours.

April 20. Remained all night at the Hotel here having failed to secure private lodgings. At 10 am patrolled the New Railway works to Polish and returned by Public Road to Hotel at 6 pm. Travelled 8 miles and 8 hours on duty. Night duty. Patrolled about the Hotel and the Public Road from 7 pm to 11 pm. Travelled 4 miles on duty. 4 hours.

Wednesday 21 April. Patrolled along the line of the New Railway Works from the Hotel to Polish from 10 am to 2 pm. and from 4 pm to 6 pm.

Friday April 23. Patrolled about the Hotel and vicinity generally from 7 pm to 11 pm and returned to the house of Mr Simon Fraser, Gardener, residing at Inverailort Lodge having secured lodgings there being since my arrival here staying at the Hotel.

Sunday April 25. At 10 am left the Station and patrolled by the Hotel and Navvy Huts to Polish. 7 miles, 6 hours on duty

April 28. Patrolled by way of the Hotel the line of New Railway Works to Polish, met and conferred with P.C. Maclellan at 12 noon. Night duty. Patrolled to the Navvy Huts at Camusarisach.

April 30. Proceeded along the Railway Works to the Black Loch. Travelled 12 miles.

May 7. Proceeded along the line of the New Railway Works by Camusarisach, thence by the township of Polish along the Works by the Black Loch to Kinloch-nan-uagh where I met and conferred with P.C. Maclellan.

May 11. In red ink. "At 2pm met near my Station with Mrs Head of Inverailort who gave a complaint against person/s unknown. She had erected a sign 200 yards west of Inverailort House at a point where a private road leads off to the right from the public footpath to my boathouse - a notice made up of a piece of wood 8 feet in length, fixed in the ground and attached to the tops of said stick an enamel plate with the words "Private Road" thereon in paint. This notice plate is valued at five shillings (5/-) and stick has been pulled down by some person and thrown into the sea below, the stick being afterwards found on the beach. This notice was standing on Tuesday of last week, 4th inst. and I am informed by my servants that navvies were seen to pass on that date and I suspect them of having stolen the notice. I wish the Police to make an enquiry with the view to find the notice and endeavour to trace the thief".

Statement from Patrick Rooney (28), unmarried, Cashier employed by Macalpine Railway Contractors residing at the Old Schoolhouse, Polish. He had gone on the ferry "Comet" and did not notice the sign.

Questioned Hector Beaton (40), Ganger, resident at Kinlochailort Navvy huts. Agreed with Patrick Rooney.

Dualey Macdonnell (35), married, gamekeeper, residing Inverailort House – On 4th Inst. a squad of navvies were coming ashore from a steamer at the boathouse.

Walked 14 miles.

May 15. Returned to the Pay Office. On duty 1-3pm

May 19. A complaint from Danuel Smith (32), married, Provision Store Keeper, residing at Kinlochailort. Tuesday 18th a case of lemonade was stolen from the shop- Cooper and Co's store of provisions. Case found in front of the store. 50 bottles of lemonade missing.

May 20. Andrew Weir, manager to Mrs Head, Kinlochailort, told Mackay that Mrs. Head wanted to see him about a fire that took place on her estate in the natural birch wood at Rannochan on the estate. Suspected passing tramps set the fire going.

May 21. P.C. Melville Glenfinnan sent a wire – Man aged about 40, dark hair, whiskers, dark clothes was detained on suspicion of putting hill on fire here.

May 22. Railway machinery, a stone breaker, blocked horses from using the road.

Duncan MacNab (18) son of Donald MacNab, Hotel Keeper at Kinlochailort

John Smith (48), married, labourer, residing at Kinlochailort – “Between 6 and 7pm on this date I, along with my son Robert Withers, left from camp by the sea shore and were going along by the public road to Cooper and Co’s store when 20 yards or so from the store I met five navvies each of whom I could not know. They were slightly the worse of drink and began to curse and swear and throw stones at me about the hands and face and cutting me. One of the said five navvies struck my son Walter with a stone and seriously injured him. I could identify this navvy, as well as one or two more of them. They went along the road leading to Arising.

May 23. Statement from John Campbell aged 40, married, Gauger and Hut Keeper at the Kinlochailort Navvy Huts :- The accused five men were standing on the Public Road in front of Cooper’s Store. They argued with the complainer and then began throwing stones. Walter Smith infant was hit in the left ear while in the arms of Mary Smith (13) his sister residing at Kinlochailort.

June 3. John Cunningham (23), unmarried, Ganger, residing at Camas Driseach Navvy Huts gave evidence. Michael Mulvey (33), unmarried, navvy, residing at Camas Driseach Navvy Huts gave evidence :- Andrew Lyll (28), unmarried, Navvy, residing at Kinlochailort Navvy Huts, a witness. John Campbell (48), married, Ganger, residing at Kinlochmoidart. John McRae (14), nipper, residing at Kinlochmoidart Navvy Huts. John Cunningham (23), unmarried, Ganger.

June 7. “Got a lift to Arisaig by the Mail Coach, 9am till 10am, to Inspector Chisholm at the Constabulary Office.

June 8. At 5pm was inspected by Captain Munro, HM Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland.

June 9. 12.30 till 6pm on the mail coach from Fort William to Lochailort.

John Casay (28), navvy, residing at Campbell’s Navvy Hut, Kinlochmoidart. He had an injured foot and stayed the night after the pub in a shed adjoining the Inn.

June 11. Received from Inspector Chisholm, Fort William, Memorandum of this date with P.O. Order in my favour for £2/2/1½, being the amount of my pay and accounts for four weeks dated 7th Inst.

June 20. Farquhar Murchieson (20), unmarried, Ganger, residing Polish. Saturday 19th inst. was at Kinlochailort Inn. “I left drunk at 10 pm along Arisaig road. At 2 am I found himself lying at Camas Driseach – about one mile from the Inn. I lost my watch, a double-cased hunting lever watch, two black leather purses containing silver and copper”.

Alexander MacDonald, Provision Stockeeper (24) unmarried, residing Polish was awakened out of bed at 2am by a loud knocking at his Store. He came in and explained about the theft.

June 22. Went to Kinlochailort Navvy Huts and met John Curran, Navvy who had an accident. An assault was caused by a tramp woman Mary Brown or Shields, (27), a wife residing with Peter Shields, a tramp navvy on the Railway Extension Works at Kinlochailort. He met with Mathew MacTaggart (42) widower, navvy, residing at Camas Driseach Provision Store about half a mile from the Inn. Mary Brown or Shields assaulted Joseph McLoone attempting to strike him about the face and chest and using filthy language. I saw the accused pull something like a knife from about her waste and rushed at McLoone with it and he ran towards me calling that he was stabbed by the accused in the bones. I did not see where the accused put the knife or other sharp instrument with which she assaulted the complainer.

June 22. Found and apprehended Mary Brown or Shields in charges of Breach of the Peace, Assault with a knife on Joseph McLoone, a navvy, and Malicious Mischief committed on the Public Road near Cooper and Co’s Store. I charged and cautioned accused and conveyed her by single horse machine to Fort William, arriving there and handing the prisoner over to Inspector Chisholm at the Constabulary Office.

June 23. Returned by Arisaig Mail Coach leaving Fort William at 12.30 and arriving Kinlochailort 6pm.

June 24. More evidence from Rodger McHugh (21), single, navvy, residing Kinlochmoidart.

June 29. Mary Brown or Shields was on trial 28th. Pled guilty.

July 8. Received P.O. Order of £4/10/5.

July 15. Apprehended Hugh McEachan, labourer, from Glennan, Back of Keppoch. Assaulted P.C. MacLennan on 12th inst; returned with prisoner to the Hotel. Put in charge, under instruction from Insp. Chisholm . Proceeded by Mail Coach leaving Arisaig 8.15 am arriving Fort William at 3.30pm and handed to P.S. McInnes.

July 16. 12.30 got the mail coach back. Kinlochailort 6.0 p.m.

July 22. Robert Stewart (45), married, blacksmith, resides at Polish, employed by Mess. MacAlpine & Sons, Railway Contractors, against Daniel Smith (32) married, Provision Storekeeper, residing Kinlochmoidart. "Tuesday 20th July was working overtime in Smithy at Polish. Met Wm. McKinnell with collie. Was bitten by the collie."

Wm McKinnell (28), unmarried, lorry man, Kinlochleven. Stopped the horse for a few seconds and told the complainer to kick the dog away. I then drove on."

July 23. Wm. McLauchlan (21), unmarried, navy, staying Glenbeasdale. Rock cutting at Glenbeasdale. James McEwan, John Bradley and Wm. McLauchlan were employed wheelbarrowing loose pieces of rock into cutting wagons. "A large piece of rock caught hold of my left foot and crushed it against my wheelbarrow. The piece of rock tore the skin off my leg close above the ankle. Boulder 15 feet wide and 10 feet depth".

July 26. On duty at Railway Workers' Pay Office, Polish.

July 28. James Nuttall (49), unmarried, navy, residing in McGregor's navy hut, Polish. Went to Kinlochailort Inn at noon possessing 17sh and 7½ pence. He was at the "Tap Room" of Kinlochailort Inn. An unknown navy attacked him and took his money wallet from him. Norman MacAskill (22), unmarried, Barman, Kinlochailort :- "The accused was William Docharter (23), navy, Kinlochailort. In the presence of P.C. McPherson, P.C. Mackay charged him with theft of purse containing one half sovereign and two shilling pieces. Accused denied. I thereupon searched accused and found one ½ sovereign and one two shilling piece. Accused then admitted. I labelled the ½ sovereign found on the accused and apprehended him at 6pm secured.". He was taken to Fort William and handed over to Insp. Chisholm at Constable Office at 2.30am. Twenty hours of duty.

July 29. Returned on Arisaig Mail Coach. 12 noon till 6pm.

July 31. Duncan Gillies (39), married, Foreman Blacksmith, Camas Driseach, was accidentally drowned 5pm while bathing. Accompanied by P.C. MacPherson saw the blessed's body on the shore. Removed the body to the Railway Store. Wife's address, 25 Annisland, Great Western Road, Maryhill. Witness James Macdonald (27), unmarried, Foreman Joiner at Camusdriseach and Henry McAllan went out on boat from Camas Driseach . Drowned in 9 feet of water, 30 yards from the shore. Witnesses James Bailing and George Fluke.

August 2. Mr Head of Inverailort House. "Late last night my butler, Fred Grey, witness of seeing, about 7pm Saturday 31st July, a suspicious-looking man go about the Public Road in the vicinity of Inverailort House. Also on 1st August 7.30 he was seen close by Inverailort House within the ground and wandering among the trees by Frederick Grey (26), unmarried, butler at Inverailort House.

August 3. Received notice to look for Harry May, navy, wanted as witness in a case of Murder at Blairenbathie, Fifeshire of 10th July 1897.

August 7. Neil McLeod (30), married, navy, residing at Tlorkes (?) Hut, Camas Driseach Navy Huts. "I was at Lochailort Inn the 7th. Left at 9pm with Henry McUlear ? witness and another drunk man named James Gorman, whom witness and I were assisting home. Witness and I quite sober. About one quarter of a mile from the inn and fifty yards from Cooper & Co's Store I saw seven or eight men on the Public Road in front and coming towards me. I didn't know the men. One of their number struck me a violent blow on the forehead with some hard instrument which knocked me down on the road and while lying on the ground said person struck me about the body".

Henry McAleav ? (19), unmarried, engineman, residing at Tloorkes Hut at Camas Driseach, gave evidence.

August 9. John Carey, (20), navy, no fixed residence, was concerned in the assault committed on Neil McLeod, navy, on night of Saturday 7th. I, by the sergeant's orders, accompanied him by machine with prisoner at 6pm Glenfinnan arriving there at 8pm.

August 10. Left Glenfinnan 8am with P.S. McInnes along the line of Railway Works to Taskifern ? making enquiries about Peter Whalan, James Whalan and Henry Blair and other navvies when Niel McLeod Navvy was assaulted.

August 11. James Gillan (34), unmarried, joiner, residing at Tlorkes Hut, Camus Driseach. Tlorkes was struck going back from the Inn and lost a lot of blood.

Annie Walker or Campbell (37), wife of John Campbell, Ganger and Hut keeper residing at Kinlochailort, refused entrance to James Gillan. "I returned then towards the kitchen of the hut. When about to enter the kitchen door from the workmen's dining room I was startled by a stone that was struck from outside the hut, breaking a pane of glass in the kitchen window and striking against the partition at the further side of the kitchen window and striking against the partition at the further side of the kitchen. I took care of the stone Whalan struck through the window".

August 12. Dudley Macdonell (35), married, game keeper at Inverailort 7th August was working at Mrs Head's boat house. I went into a house 150 yards from the boathouse and saw three navvies unknown. Kindling a fire for working food, I ordered them to leave the house which they did at once. The door was not locked and no violence was used to get inside. I consulted Mrs Head. The house is situated inside an iron fence in my private grounds and for the past four or five years is unused. 14 feet broad by 52 feet long and a roof covered with slates.

Railway building accident. Alexander MacArthur (20), unmarried, residing at Palmer's Hut at Camas Drisach, was injured. "Working on the face of the cutting about twelve feet from the top and twenty feet from the base level, some hard substance, which I thought fell down from higher up the face of the cutting, struck me unawares on my left hips. This knocked me down headlong down among the stones, a distance of about twenty feet to the bottom of the cutting. I was unconscious for a time and lay at the bottom of the cutting and said witness assisted me down to my lodgings. My left hip is blue and very painful. Skin is scratched from off the back of my left arm, the palm of my right hand and my right knee are badly swollen".

Arthur Douglas and Neil McIntyre engaged in setting a boring machine. "A piece of iron, usually called a boot, which weighs over half a cwt and is part of the boring machine came along with loose pieces of rock, direct to where the injured man was working and struck him about the body, knocking him down the cutting".

August 13. Angus Douglas (39), unmarried, machine driver, stays at Campbell's Hut, Kinlochailort and Neil McIntyre (63), married, Ganger, were engaged in fixing a compressor air bring machine. The machine somehow capsized unawares to me and one of the three bools then hanging the machine fell over the edge of the rock down into the cutting where the injured man and Murdoch McKenzie witness were working. This part of the machine brought down with it pieces of rock which caught hold of the injured man and caused him to fall headlong down among loose rock to the level of the cutting.

August 17. Kinlochailort House, Mrs Head. "On the green lawn to the north side of Inverailort House and about 100 yards distant, I have got three rabbit coops with rabbits. I visited the coops and found that in one of them, which contained the mother rabbit with her five young, all the young rabbits were stolen. They were about two weeks old. Dudley Macdonell in the past few weeks went daily with feeding stuffs to the rabbits. I did not know how many rabbits were in the coop from which the five young were stolen. They are known to be of Belgian breed".

Horse carter, John Kean (24), unmarried, carter on the railway works. Left horse alone, but the horse bolted with cart for half a mile and collided with a carriage and two horses with Sir Charles Mordaunt going to Borrodale House.

August 24. The store about half a mile from Lochailort Inn. Cooper and Co store.

August 25. Arch^d Maccoll (30), married, joiner, Kinlochnanuagh. Drank at the Inn 8am till 11am.

Sunday August 29. Attended Devine Service at Free Church Arisaig. 22 miles. 14 hours. 7am till 9pm.

September 8. Complaint from William Docherty (30), married, blacksmith, residing in McGregor's Navvy Hut, Polish. George McDonald (34), unmarried, tramp, navvy, no fixed

address. "Had £1 in my possession on coming to the Hotel and afterwards took fifty shillings out of the Post Office Savings Bank at Kinlochailort. 5pm lying on ground at the Hotel. Accused breached his pockets and took all of the money. I was the worse for drinks at the time".

Colin McNab (12), son of Donald McNab, Hotel keeper Kinlochailort, "I saw accused search complainer's pockets and take 4 or 5 pieces of gold which I saw were either sovereigns or half-sovereigns and put all this money in his pocket, then walked away leaving the complainer lying there".

George McDonald, accused, found 200 yards west.

September 18. Bele Hawkins (27), unmarried, sick nurse, residing at Kinlochailort Hotel, was assaulted by a tramp navy. Bele says. "Saturday 18th I went along the public road to the New Hospital at Polish, ¼ mile before the hospital, 12.15 to 12.30 at the hospital. The tramp accused her of selling bad drink at the Hotel. He gave a blow on my breast which knocked my head against the telegraph pole by the roadside. He kicked me once. He had a grey jacket and trousers, was clean shaven and had a wild expression. I should like if he be found and prosecuted".

September 21. Received telegram from Insp. Chisholm, Fort William "John Mullen assault by shooting trial here Friday 14th inst. Francis Riley, important witness, said to be now horse driver about Kinlochailort, has brother hut-keeper near Arisaig".

September 22. Francis Riley witness left fourteen days ago.

September 24. Found Alexander McRimman, Mason, residing Borrodale and charged him with committing Breach of the Peace and attempt to Assault at Polish Hector McKenzie, Freeman Mason residing there.

September 25. 11.30 –2.30 at the Pay Office.

October 1. Salary £5/8/9, four weeks.

October 3. James Head esq. on beat from Roshven to Inverailort. Two miles before Inverailort met Ronald MacIsaac, witness. He had found five men, about 6pm on Inverailort Estate Ground with a gun in their possession. Poachers went on to Inverailort. Accused were in a boat and he pulled up to them and asked them for their names. They refused. Police were asked to assist in finding the names of the accused and whether they had a gun licence.

Ronald MacIsaac (36), married, Estate Gamekeeper Roshven. He heard a gun fired. Dudley McDonnell (35), married, gamekeeper, Inverailort. Accused person James McDonald (27), unmarried, Foreman Joiner. William Rennie (26), unmarried, Casgier, Polish. Robert McDermid (30), married, Timekeeper. Polish. James Calder (22), unmarried, Joiner, Polish. John Paterson (28), unmarried, Foreman, Fitter, Polish. John Scott (27), unmarried, Camasdrisach.

All admitted guilty. Scott produced a gun license.

October 5. Sent a letter to Procurator Fiscal about the shooting.

October 18. Tibbolt (38), unmarried, Railway Manager, Polish. 10am Monday got to cutting ¼ mile from the Hotel. Neil McLeod, (48), married, Ganger, Kinlochmoidart Navy Huts, witness in charge of the cutting. "An ammunition box near the cutting was broken open and two oilskins stolen (cost 12/- each), yellow. Have initials R. McA & J. Box made of wood 1½ inches thick, 4 feet long, 3 feet 6 inch wide. Has four feet".

October 27. Between Black Loch and Kinlochnanuagh found John Callachan (42), Hugh McGuade's Navy Hut, Glen Beasdale, required as witness in the case of the death of Edward Boyle in the Royal Infirmary Glasgow on 14th September.

November 20. Myles Martin (38), unmarried, Navy, residing Jeffrey's Navy Hut, Kinlochmoidart against William McGregor (about 60), married, Hutkeeper and Ganger, Polish and Jane McKumiskie or Robinson (about 26), residing with William McGregor. "I saw John McKenzie, a navy, whom I asked where we could get a drink of whisky. McKenzie said we would get it in the accused's hut to buy. We both went into the hut, asked for a glass each which was handed to us by said Jane Robinson. MacKenzie paid 8 pence (4 pence for each glass)".

November 21. Yesterday Saturday 20th P.C. MacPherson and I were patrolling at Camasdriseach. Saw a number of boxes of Gelignite on the sea shore and further saw that the

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Gelignite was carried into the general store which contains steel, oils and all materials used in the Railway Works and this store is not a licensed place for keeping explosives. I saw the boxes of Gelignite stored in the General Store.

Murdo Urquhart (44), married, storekeeper, Polish. "Eighty boxes of Gelignite = 4,000 lbs, 9 cases Detonators = 30,000 boxes of fuse, were landed from the S.S. Lozzie of Glasgow".

November 22. Robert Rancage (35), unmarried, labourer, McLauchlan's Navy Hut, Kinlochuanagh. Case of William McGreger and Jane McKumiskie or Robinson.

December 1. Donald Black (23), unmarried, navy, Campbell's Navy Hut, Kinlochailort.

Drunk Saturday. By Monday morning coat worth 10/- stolen. Patrick McDead accused.

December 3. Peter Smith stole money for Stephen Robinson. Smith was arrested for theft of 20/- unrecovered. Took him prisoner to Fort William at 5pm and handed prisoner over at 10pm.

December 4. At 12.30 attended the Sheriff Court, prisoner pleaded not guilty, made a declaration and was committed to Prison.

December 13. At trial of Peter Smith for theft of 20/- from Cooper and Co. Provisions Store at Kinlochailort. Sheriff Substitute Davidson, found the charge against prisoner not proven. 4pm hired the coach and got back at 9.30pm.

December 16. Mr Ingram, Inland Revenue Officer, Banavie, wished me to accompany him on his visiting the Workmen's Club House at Glenbeasdale. It was fitted up for Railway Workers' Club.

December 23. Postal Order put in for salary of £5/6/9 till 28th Curt. Complaint from James Wilson (48), unmarried, Kinlochailort against Peter McGregor (26), tramp, navy. "On Wednesday 22nd 10 – 11am I, along with the accused came from Glenbeasdale to the Kinlochailort Hotel, then on our way together to Railway Works at Glenfinnan. We began to drink together. I had in my possession a pair of new corduroy trousers, two cotton shirts, two pairs new socks, all rapped (lit) up in a red handkerchief with white spots. Shortly after I got the worse for drink and slept in the Taproom of the Hotel. When getting out of the Hotel at 10pm I found that my bundle with the clothes was away and I suspect the accused for having stolen".

December 24. Went to Duncan Cameron (16), barman at Kinlochailort on case of stolen clothes. "I was attending the selling of drink in the Taproom of Kinlochailort Hotel 10- to 11am. About 1pm I saw accused carrying a bundle wrapped in red handkerchief and leaving the Hotel with it, not returning since".

Joseph McNally (25), unmarried, engine driver, residing Camusdrisach. "2pm Wednesday 22nd I was at my work in charge of the engines that drive the air pump machine at Camasdriseach. I saw a navy whom I did not know come along the road from Kinlochailort Hotel. He came up to me and unloosed a red handkerchief and took from there a pair of new corduroy trousers and offered them to me for five shillings. I refused to. The navy had, I saw, two pairs of socks along with the trousers and went along the Public Road towards Arisaig."

December 25 Attended duty at the Railway Workers' Pay Office from 1.30 till 3pm.

December 29. Proceeded to Glenbeasdale conference point. Visited and examined the licensed explosives store on the Railway Works there.

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January 3. Telegram from Insp. Chisholm, Fort William. "Stolen from Arisaig Hotel last Saturday night twenty single notes, mostly National Bank and about 20 pounds in gold. Also cheque for £7/10/-, number 47847 Bank of Scotland payable to Allan Macdonald. Navies suspected. None cashed at Hotel Post Office and stores. Suspicious persons searched. Wire any trace."

January 20. Information from Mary Sharkie, wife of and residing with James Riley, Railway Manager and Hut keeper at Polish. William MacIntosh (32), unmarried, blacksmith employed on railway works and lodging with her. Got his right leg severely burnt in her hut on 1st January and up to this date MacIntosh is confined to bed in the hut and has not received medication. Dr Nicoll visited MacIntosh on 18th Inst and advised his removal to hospital.

January 27. James Hall (40), married, navvy, residing at Polish, engaged in rock cutting at Polish. Dr Nicoll, Arisaig visited and said his arm was broken.

January 28 Confirmed by William Burnett (33), unmarried, Engine Driver and John McDougal (38), unmarried, labourer, residing Polish. Completed a report on the accident of James Hall for the Procurator Fiscal.

January 30 Attending Divine Service in the Free Church Meeting Hall at Inverailort.

February 2 Received Inspector Chisholm's Mem^{dm} of second February anent Director of Sheep Marks and received by the same post five copies of said Directory for Mr Donald McNab, Kinlochailort; Mr James Head, Inverailort; Mr Angus McNaughton, Glenmamie; Mr CG(?) Gillespie, Meoble; Mr William Blackburn, Roshven.

February 12 Ronald Whiteman (27), married, Railway Ganger, residing Polish on case of theft by Housebreaking at Craigaig (east of Glenfinnan). "About 8am on Monday 7th I was in King's Hut and preparing to leave for Arisaig by Mail Coach for Kinlochailort. Mrs King was preparing a Flock Mattress that I would take with me and, requiring a needle, I went to Cooper and Co's Store close by the Hut. About 8.30am door was open and a navvy whom I did not know was on the inside of the door. On getting in to the store, I gave a shout and the storekeeper replied from the small room occupied by him in the store, as to how I got into the store. The storekeeper then came in dressed, into the store, and I saw him pick up a pair of trousers from the inside of the counter and noticing a Till on the counter end of the store. He went to it, saying some person was into it. The Storekeeper then came to the outside of the counter. I went to the door and along with them I saw that the door was forced open. At this time I asked the Storekeeper to give me what I previously asked for which he handed to me and then I left the store.

February 22 Received the following complaint from Navvy Crossan (47), Railway Ganger, Kinlochailort. "On this date I was about Kinlochailort Hotel drinking. About 1pm I was in the Taproom of the Hotel and was the worse for drink. James Smith (21), unmarried, navvy from Dufie's Hut Kinlochannuagh, said the accused, was there and was always asking me what the time of day was. I was standing up with my back against the table in the Taproom and accused came up to me, caught hold of me by the throat with one hand and with the other hand took my watch with chain attached, both of silver form, from the breast pocket of my vest, stealing it and left the Taproom almost at once, going along the road for a distance out of my sight towards Glenfinnan."

Policeman wired "The Navvy Crossan complains that James Smith Navvy assaulted and robbed him of watch and chain in Hotel Taproom. Edward Duffy gives corroborative statement. Accused admits to theft saying he handed stolen property to Duffy. Accused left Hotel on committing theft. Searched accused and Duffy who left for Glenfinnan. Accused here".

Reply 5.20 from Insp. Chisholm. "apprehend and bring accused here. bring Duffy with you if found. May bring Constable from Glenfinnan to assist if necessary".

Left by hired machine with prisoner at 7pm for Glenfinnan. Arriving there 9.30. P.C. Campbell handed me Edward Duffy. Conveying accused and Duffy by said machine to Fort William. Handed prisoner and Duffy over to Inspector Chisholm. 12 midnight

February 23 Completed my report for the Procurator Fiscal anent James Smith assault and robbing. "I was examined by the Proc Fiscal as a witness in this case, and said Edward Duffy was from 3.30 to 4.30 examined for Prosecution by the Procurator Fiscal.

Left Fort William by same hired conveyance. Returned to Kinlochailort 10pm.

February 24. Railway Workmen's Club House, Glenbeasdale. Telegram sent to Inspector Chisholm "Mary Tracey or McIlroy complains that Joseph McIlroy, hut keeper, Kinlochannuagh, assaulted her by kicking Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday. Complainer says none witness the assaults. Katie McLauchlan states complainer's body bears marks of accused's assaulting. No doctor saw complainer.

February 25. James Matheson (58), widower, Campbell's Navvy Hut, Kinlochmoidart, handed over a watch and chain found by him near the Public Road about half a mile east of Kinlochailort Hotel.

February 27 Dead body of a navvy named James McLeod, navvy, 48 found on public road, half a mile east of Kinlochailort Hotel. Dugald Macdonald to attend a sitting of the Sheriff

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Court Fort William on 2nd March, aged about 46, unmarried, navy, residing at McGregor's Hut Kinlochmoidart.

William MacDonald (48), unmarried, shepherd residing at Kinlochailort ????

February 28 Dr. Patrick, Polish, certified that death was caused by exposure. Told to attend a sitting of the Sheriff Court in Fort William on 2nd March 1890 12 noon to act as witness in case of the Fatal Accidents Enquiry on death of Donald McDonald and John Nicholson.

March 1 Met with William McGregor, Hut keeper, Polish, who took charge of body of James McLeod. Went to Internment at Arisaig.

March 8 Accident at North Morar Railway works to a navy who got his two legs broken on 28th February with instructions to visit the Polish Hospital and take a statement from him regarding the accident.

March 9 Visited Martin Hayes (25), unmarried, navy, Cottage Hospital Polish. Native to Ireland, parents in Panny-well (?) Road in Limerick. Stayed at Millar's Navy Hut. "Involved in rock cutting. James Smith, Ganger, engaged me in filling wagon with rock. A quantity of rock fell out of the face of the cutting above me. Face about 12 feet high. Dr Patrick visited me at McDougal's Hut at Morar to which I was taken".

March 15 Enquiring about Joseph Murphy concerning theft of watch and chain from Michael Joyce, navy at Borrodale. Met at Campbell's Hut. Took him to the Post Office. Wired Insp Chisholm.

Left with prisoner for Fort William at 2pm

March 16 Received telegram from Police Inspector Fort William anent Alexander Macdonald, reckless discharge of firearms at Drumsallie. "Russel and McKillop instruct Constable Campbell coming past Kinlochailort. be sure these two witnesses here in time for trial tomorrow by hire or otherwise".

March 18 P.O. Order for £5/0/5. Pay and accounts for 29 days.

March 25 Received information from Duncan Macdonald (39), married, labourer, residing Strath Arisaig anent Dugald MacDonald (41), married, labourer and anent John Nicholson, about 60, married, labourer, residing Bunnacaib. Aforesaid two missing since leaving Kinlochailort by boat for their home on Wednesday 23rd. "I am brother of Dugald Macdonald, one of said missing men. Nicholson lodged with my brother Dugald. I knew of these two men leaving Rhu on Tuesday 22nd in charge of a boat loaded with goods to Lochaylort (sic) and to the Kinlochailort Hotel. Expected to return home Wednesday 23rd by the boat. Not returning Thursday 24th, enquiry was made. I went in search of missing men and boat and I was informed at Roshven that the men were seen to pass about 6pm going into the bay as if making for Rhue".

Enquiry to Duncan McNab, 18, son of Donald McNab, Hotel Keeper, Kinlochailort. "The boat had a load of stuff made up of Feeding Provisions and drink from the steamer landing at Rhue to Kinlochailort Hotel. The boat struck a hidden rock but expected no damage. The boat went on the beach filled up with water and sunk (lit). I saw the cargo discharged on Wednesday 23rd. I examined the boat and found that water was getting into the boat at stern and side from the effect of striking on the rock. MacDonald informed me that there was no danger for his and Nicholson's return home by the boat. Thirty two half barrels were put on the boat. Then both men left with the boat for home. The boat was an ordinary fishing smack and MacDonald remarked that the boat was for long time lying without being in use".

April 13 Received a complaint from William Rose, 25, unmarried, stock-taker, residing Glenfinnan. "I am employed by Messrs. Cooper and Co. of Glasgow and employed as stalk-taker in the Railway Stores in the Mallaig Railway Extensions works. I stayed at Glenbeasdale Store along with John Brovman. I went to Arisaig and returned by Mail Coach to Glenfinnan. I was informed by John Brovman that an overcoat I left in the kitchen of the Store was stolen between 8 and 10pm last night. Mrs McUlloch, Hut Keeper, stated that the stolen overcoat was in her hut. Navy brought it into the store. John Alfred, 33, navy, lodging in hut occupied by Ellen McUlloch, pointed out where he found the stolen overcoat".

April 19 until April 29. Each day is marked "Leave of absence granted by Chief Constable".

April 30 At Railway Workers pay office 1pm- 3pm.

1898

May 6 Accident at Kinlochnanuagh. Tom McAlpine injured on railway works from Glenbeasdale to Kinlochnanuagh. "Passed through cutting work at Kinlochnanuagh, worked by Philip Duffy, Ganger. He was charging bores with gelignite. Passed to next cutting, worked by James Roger, ganger. All unaware, a stone from one of the blasts struck the injured man on his left side with great force. The stone weighs about four pounds. There was no place this stone would have come from but Duffy's cutting. Along with James Roger, witness carried the injured man to MacLauchlan's Navvy Hut at Kinlochnanuabh where I stayed with the injured till the arrival of Dr Patrick from Polish and afterwards saw the injured man removed to the Cottage Hospital there in a conveyance".

Policeman went to Cottage Hospital making enquiries after Thomas McAlpine.

May 26 Stolen from MacLauchlan's Hut Kinlochnanuagh £2/8/- in notes and silver. Suspected Dublin Daily, (26), 5 feet 9 inches, broad face, blue moleskin trousers well torn.

May 27 Found James Daily (Dublin), 24, single, navvy, residing at Senate's Hut Carnoch. Charged him and searched him.

June 16 Received C.C.'s Memorandum of 14th June 1898 anent half-yearly census of Vagrants etc. to be taken on night of Sunday 26th June 1898.

June 23 Jane MacKunskie or Robertson, 24, Hut Keeper, Glenbeasdale, against Frank Shovelin (36), married, Hut Keeper, Gaffer, residing at Glenbeasdale. "Accused Frank Shovelin accused me of insulting his wife, followed me into my hut, caught hold of my throat and hair with his hands, struck me a blow with his fist on my face which bled my nose and when lying on the hut floor accused's booted foot came against my left eye. Patrick Welsh witness put accused out and shut the door. Accused called me a whore and threatened to again assault me.. Patrick Welsh, 30, unmarried, navvy and Georgina Smith, 12, Domestic Servant, both residing at Glenbeasdale gave evidence.

June 26 Carried out Census of Vagrants.

July 2 Frank Shovelin to have a trial in Fort William 1pm 6th July 1898. Two witnesses, Jane MacKimskie or Robertson

July 4 Patrolled from Breanchoille to Glenfinnan.

July 8 Left Station at 5am. Left by Machine and proceeded thereby to Banavie, hence by the 10.5am train to Fort William. Left Fort William by 4pm train to Banavie, returning by same machine to Kinlochmoidart 10pm.

July 11 Information from Archibald Macdougall, 24, unmarried, labourer, Kinlochailort. "I along with Alexander Macdonald, witness, was in a boat in Loch Shiel. About 5pm we noticed a boat being rowed east of the loch by two navvies. Knowing that these navvies stole the boat we came ashore at the boathouse at the end of Loch Shiel and informed James Carr (complainer) and he said that witness and Angus Macdougall witness, and I went by boat from the boat house along the loch and finding the navvies with the stolen boat, we brought the said two persons and the stolen boat back to the boat house and I went and informed the police". James Carr, 31, married, Fish watcher, residing Arienskill stated "I am employed by Mr Nicolson Arisaig and am in charge of the boats and the boathouse at Loch Eilt. The door of the boathouse was forced open and two oars stolen away, also a boat beside the boathouse". Both the accused admitted stealing the boat but denied breaking open the boathouse. I apprehended both the accused and took them to the Kinlochailort Hotel, leaving there by hired machine at 11.30 for lockup at Fort William. Handed over to Inspector Chisholm at 5am.

July 12 Left Fort William 1pm. Kinlochailort 6pm.

July 15 Morris Griffin, 32, unmarried, navvy, residing Morar, assaulted at Arisaig. 17/2^p stolen

July 26 Received notice to look for Thomas Warren, a labourer, wanted by the Dublin Metropolitan Police, charged with Wife Desertion.

July 27 Found Thomas Warren at Campbell's Navvy Hut, Kinlochmoidart. Apprehended him. Took him to Fort William on the Arisaig Mail Coach and handed him to Inspector Chisholm.

August 10 Received a Peddler's Certificate no. 21 for Philip Phillips residing at Inverailort.

1898

August 20 At 9pm Harry Crossan, complainer in case against James Smith, Assault and Robbery(see 22nd February 1898) called at the station and I handed him his watch and chain, the property stolen of his person on said date.

September 5 Met and conferred with P.C. McLennan. A lorry drawn by a pair of horses loaded with provisions. Part of the load was left beside the public road at Borrodale. On returning there the meat was stolen. The three hampers contained 72 pounds of steak at 10^d per pound = £3/16/8; 66 pounds of boiling beef at 8^d per pound = £2/4/- and sausages to the value of £1/4/8.

September 29 Received a tracing of Inspector Chisholm's Memorandum intimating that Elizabeth Ross described in Burgh of Inverness Police Information of 20th inst. was apprehended at Elgin.

October 1 Received PO Order for £4/14/8 being my pay and accounts for the four weeks ended 27th November.

October 2 (1898) (The last entry) Sunday at 10am left Station and patrolled by the Public Road to Polish and returned to Station at 3pm. Travelled 6 miles, on duty 5 hours.

Night duty. 5pm left Station and patrolled along the Public Road to Arianskill and returned to Kinlochailort Station at 9pm. 4 miles and 4 hours duty.

Kinlochailort Police Station 1898 - 1900
R91/D/C/5/14/2 at Fort William Archives

The first entry is on October 5th 1898 and was made by P.C. MacKay. His last entry was made on July 28th 1899 when he was instructed to transfer to Fort William on 29th inst. On July 29th 1899 P.C. Sinclair was then stationed at Kinlochailort. He wrote the last page of the book on June 18th 1900. Two or more pages may be missing from the damaged end to the book.

1898

- October 5 Proceeded accompanied by PC McDonald along the Public Road by Camusdrisach to Polish and there learned of an accident on the Railway Works at Arnabol Glen. There was a fall of a rock in a cutting about 10.15am today. Frank Docherty (19), unmarried, navy, residing at Duffies' Navy Hut, Kinlochannuagh was killed. John Docherty (21), single, navy, Kinlochannuagh and James Kilevin (19), single, navy and Michael Rynna (?) (22), single, navy, residing at Kiley's Navy Hut, Polish were accidentally injured in same cutting by falling pieces of rock catching hold of them. Witnesses were James Kinningburgh (26), married, crofter Glenbeasdale, and James Riley (45), married, Railway Manager, Polish. Frank Docherty was killed by falling rock. I assisted in getting John Docherty, James Kilevin and Michael Rynna removed from underneath the fallen rock and carried to the Cottage Hospital at Polish. James Kelvin had his left leg broken. Injured men in hospital examined by Dr. Moorhead.
- October 17 The store at Borrodale was broken into with two panes of glass broken. Seven pairs of boots valued at 7/6^d a pair were stolen. Ten cotton shirts 2/6^d each and thirteen pairs of purpose boot laces 2/6^d stolen. Found the stolen property under the Hut occupied by Rose Morgan or McNelly. Apprehended Peter Cunningham residing in Navy Hut at Borrodale and took him to Lock-up at Kinlochailort. Then took him to Fort William prison.
- October 19 Left Fort William at 1.30pm by Arisaig Mail Coach and got to Kinlochailort at 6.50pm.
- October 28 Received four weeks pay £5/1/7.
- October 30 Cooper & Co's Railway Store at Arienskill was broken into on night of 29th inst. Suspecting that accused would probably go by Glenfinnan, I secured a hired machine and proceeded to Arienskill at 12.30 and got information from James Bremner (19), store salesman at Kinlochailort. "I am employed by Messrs. Cooper & Co. of Glasgow. £22 stolen, also four pairs of tacketted boots (7/6^d per pair), four tins salmon (8^d each), two bottles red cabbage (8^d each), two pounds ham, half pound tobacco (2/-^d), two pairs Worsted drawers (2/6^d each), six cakes (6^d each)".
- Followed up the navvies and caught them at Kinlocheil, 3pm. Arrested John Callaghan (22), single, navy; Patrick Gorman (29), single, not married, navy; James Taylor (22), single, ganger residing at Glenbeasdale; and James O'Brien (23), single, residing at Kinlochailort. Witness identified the four as present at the Railway Smithy Saturday 29th Inst. and on searching their persons found respectively £6/1/5; £1/3/8; £0/10/0; £3/2/1. I apprehended said four navvies and brought them by hire to Fort William. 40 miles, 21 hours.
- November 2 Angus Macdonald Postman between Kinlochailort and Glenuig called at the Station and informed me that Miss Otilie McLaren of Samalaman Glenuig lost a Buckskin purse containing £8 in notes and about ten shillings in silver and a beaten brass cigarette case. Proceeded with McDonald to Camasdrisach and there found cigarette case of which I took possession.

- (1898) Received complaint from Bridget Scanlon or Shorllin (31), married, Inverailort against Francis Shorllin (about 42), her husband. "I was keeping Navy Hut at Kinlochnanuagh and we were ordered to leave the hut. Accused left the hut and went away leaving me with all my children, John (12), Francis (7), Grace (6) and Annie (2). A few days later I was put out of said hut and up to now I reside with my sister Ann Scanlon or Curran who keeps navy hut at Kinlochailort. Accused, on leaving led me to believe he was to try and find a Hut to keep on the Balachulish and Connell Ferry Railway Works. Since leaving myself and family I did not hear of my husband or from him. I received no support for self or family and now wish the Police to assist me".
- November 5 Gangers were paid 5/6^d per day on Glenbeasdale to Polish section of railway work.
John McLuckie (48), single, Railway Timekeeper, residing at Kinlochnanuagh, on case of theft by Housebreaking at Arienskill. Accused were James Taylor and John Callaghan. On 28th October 1898 Callaghan was paid off work. John O'Brien accused left work 29th October 1898. James Gorman paid on 29th October 1898.
- November 17 John Macinnes (25), married, Grocery Salesman (employed by Mr Allan MacDonald, Merchant Arisaig, and residing at Glenbeasdale).
- November 25 Here there are five pages written concerning a set of complaints against Patrick Dannon (27), single, a Railway Ganger made by:-
- (1) Barney McNally (50), married, Ganger, Arnipol Glen. He worked as subcontractor on the Kinlochailort subsection of the Mallaig Railway. He works at Locheilt. He worked forty eight hours for the accused at the rate of 6^d per hour. Accused owes me £1 and he refused to pay me.
 - (2) Michael Logan (27), married, navy, Florke's Navy Hut, Arienskill. "The accused worked as subcontractor in the Railway Works and I was in his employment. I worked twenty one hours for the accused at 4/6^d per ten hours. Accused owes me a sum of 9/5^d."
 - (3) Patrick Hanley (35), married, navy, Florke's Navy Hut, Arienskill. "I worked twenty one hours for him and was to have received at a rate of 6^d per hour. Accused paid 3/0^d and still owes me 7/6^d."
 - (4) John Curran (23), single, labourer, Florke's Navy Hut. "I worked forty six and a half hours. It was arranged I should receive pay at rate of 4/9^d for 10 hours. I got 5/6^d from the accused. He still owes me 16/0^d."
 - (5) William Berry, agent (24), single, navy, Florke's Navy Hut. "I worked forty two hours for accused and was promised at rate of 6^d per hour. I got 5/0^d from accused and he still owes me 16/0^d."
 - (6) Mathew Hughes (51), single, navy, Florke's Navy Hut. "Forty hours in accused's employment on railway works at Locheilt. By arrangement I was to receive 4/9^d rate. I got 6/0^d from accused and he still owes me 18/0^d."
 - (7) John Burns, Florke's Navy Hut (39), single, navy, "Worked fifty one hours and accused still owes me 25/6^d."
 - (8) Arthur McLavey (50), married, navy, Pilmer's Navy Hut, Arienskill. "Forty two hours. Promised a rate of 4/6^d per ten hours work. Accused owes me 18/6^d."
 - (9) John Griffin (40), married, navy, Florke's Navy Hut. "Twenty three hours at rate of 5/6^d per ten hours. I got 2/6^d of sub from accused and he still owes me 10/0^d."
 - (10) Joseph McColie (?), (23), single, Florke's Navy Hut. "27.5 hours at rate of 6^d per hour. I got 4/0^d from accused and he still owes me 9/6^d."
 - (11) Edward Fitzgerald (25), single, navy, Florke's Navy Hut, Arienskill. 39 hours in accused's employment was to be paid at 4/6^d per ten hours. Accused owes 17/6^d.

- (12) Samuel Dixson (44), married, navy, Palmer's Navy Hut, Arienskill worked 28½ hours at rate of 4/9^d per ten hours. He received 3/6^d. Accused still owes 10/0^d.
- November 25 (1898) Robert McDermid (30), married, Timekeeper, Polish, employed by McAlpine & Sons Contractors. Timekeeper of Kinlochailort section. He was in pay office. Accused came for pay for his week's work. Accused got £3/10/- of sub on his work which anivinted in value for the week to £8/15/10. This sum less said sum of sub received being offered to accused saying that this money would not pay his men, got £4 more and left the office. Soon after accused returned with his squad of twelve men and wished to have £3 more, otherwise he (the accused) would not pay his men. I was informed by the aforesaid witness that accused did not pay them for their work to him.
- December 15 Received memorandum anent James Docherty, Fatal accident (October 5th). He is called Frank Docherty on October 5). Citations from Dr George Hamilton Moorhead, John Docherty, Navy (deceased's brother) and James Riley, Manager; William Downie, Ganger and James Crow, Navy, Kinlochnanuagh to attend Public Enquiry on death of above mentioned person under the Fatal Accidents Enquiry to be held in the Sheriff Court, Fort William 22nd inst. 1pm. John Callaghan (22), single, navy, accused of theft by Housebreaking (30th October). Witness James Bremner, Storekeeper; Edward Flork, Hutkeeper Arienskill; Patrick MacNaulty, Kinlochailort; John McLuckie, Timekeeper, Lochnanuagh.
- December 20 Proceeded by Mail Coach to Fort William 10.30am till 4pm.. Went to office at 6pm.
- December 21 Witness at Court Case against John Callaghan. Jury found the charge not proven.
- December 22 Witness on Public Enquiry about the death of Francis Docherty. Verdict of accidental death.
- December 25 Left Fort William 7am by Arisaig Mail Coach. Arrived 12.50. Carried out half-yearly census of Vagrants. 20 miles. 13 hours.

1899

- January 1 Day duty 3 hours, 4 miles. Night duty 2 hours, 3 miles.
- January 2 Searched about Kinlochailort for a navy known as "Singing Dublin" suspected of theft.
- January 6 Special permission was granted in favour of Mr Donald McNab, Hotel-keeper at Kinlochailort, authorising him to keep open his hotel here from 10pm on Friday 6th till 2am on Saturday 7th on the occasion of a Supper and Ball being held here tonight by Messrs Cooper and Company's Workmen. I attended duty about the hotel and saw that the special permission was used only for the benefit of those attending the Supper and Ball. Returned to the Station at 3am.
- January 20 Called at the Post Office and received Money Order in my favour for £5/5/4 being the amount of my pay and accounts for the four weeks ending the 17th instant.
- January 24 John McNaughton (31), single, navy. Between 7 and 8am this date I, in company with a navy named Thomas Barnes, went to Kinlochailort Hotel for about an hour and was informed that James McNally had purses stolen from him during the night containing over £2. He suspected Barnes for the theft. James McNally worked till 11pm and all the others were asleep. They woke up between 6 and 7am. When McNally woke up he found that his leather purse had been stolen. It contained two Bank of Scotland one-pound notes, one half-crown, one shilling and two pennies.
- January 25 Visited and examined the Licensed Store on the Railway works and found all correct.
- January 31 Patrolled to Arienskil. Found there a caravan, property of Donald McLauchlan, Road Contractor residing at Corriebeg (?) Kilmallie Parish. It stands beside the

- (1899) road two and a half miles east of Kinlochailort and was broken into by a board being broken out of the caravan door by being repeatedly struck by a large stone which I found beside the caravan.
- February 17 Received money order for £4/19/4 for four weeks work.
- February 22 Information received anent Bernard Farrell, navvy, wanted on J.P. Warrant for deserting his wife and family since 2nd February 1899 who have now become chargeable to the Drogheda Board of Guardians Ireland. At Kinlochnanuagh at 4pm found, charged and apprehended said Bernard Farrell and took him to the lockup at 5pm and detained him there.
- February 23 Left 10am and proceeded by the Arisaig Mail Coach to Fort William with Bernard Farrell. Handed him over at 4pm.
- February 24 Left Fort William by the Mail Coach at 1pm. Arrived 6.30pm.
- March 14,15,16. Detained at Station through illness.
- March 20 Examined licensed Explosive Stores and found correct.
- March 23 Public Footpath to Ardnish. 14 hours duty.
- March 24 William Shanks (60), navvy, no fixed address. Ill and Destitute in Curian's Navy Hut Kinlochailort.
- March 25 William Shanks died and was not seen by Inspector of the Poor. Proceeded to Cottage Hospital Polish and informed Dr. Moorhead to see the body. Saw the body examined. Certified death due to natural causes.
- March 26 Kinlochailort Innkeeper to provide cart to take the body to Arisaig burying ground. Along with PC Macdonald arrived at Arisaig at 12.30 and under the direction of Rev. Mr. Macdonald made the interment.
- April 16 10am left the station and patrolled about Kinlochailort. Proceeded to Inverailort and attended Devine Service there at 12 noon in the Established Hall.
- April 20 9am Morris Brown (28), single, peddler, Arienskiill called at the station and gave information and complaint against Helen Currans (19), single, domestic servant residing with Helen Dolan or Harvey (38), wife of Hugh Harvey, Hutkeeper at Arienskill. Slept at hut but in the morning found stolen knives, spoons, a broach, two rings (valued 1/0^d), corkscrew. Called at Navy Hut of Helen Harvey accused along with Angus McDonald who found a ring answering description of part of stolen property.
- April 23 Sunday. Left 10am and patrolled about Kinlochailort and vicinity. At 12.30 proceeded to Roshven and returned to station at 8pm. 14 miles, 10 hours duty.
- April 26 Patrolled along line of New Railway works at Polish, Kinlochnanuagh and Glenbeasdale. Conferred there with PCs MacLennan and Sinclair at 1pm. 16 miles. 9 hours.
- May 6 At 2pm was informed by William Rose, Manager to Cooper and Company that, on 4th inst. he, when travelling by Bicycle from Kinlochailort to Fort William at 11am, lost from one of his outside Jacket pockets a Gold Watch Chain, Curb pattern with appendage attached. Value £4 and attached to said chain a brown seal, silver invunted. Value 10/-. Also attached to Gold Finger ring with initials W.R. Value £1.
- May 7 2pm this day I met with John Mackenzie near Kinlochailort Hotel. "He handed me a Gold Ring bearing initials W.R. which I saw was part of the property I lost on 4th inst. I took possession of said ring which witness informed me that he bought about twenty minutes before from a tramp for the sum of 5/-. I handed the Gold Ring to Const. Mackay".
Evidence from John Mackenzie (28), single, Railway Ganger, Loch Eilt. "A navvy Thomas Holmes came up to me and offered me a Gold Ring for five shillings, but I refused to give that sum for a ring. Accused proceeded to Arienskill. I regretted not purchasing the ring and went after accused, Thomas Holmes, and bought the said ring for 5/-."
2.30pm with PC Macdonald I proceeded to Arienskill and found, charged and apprehended said Thomas Holmes at 3pm, took him to the lockup and sustained him there.

- (1899)
- May 8 At 10am proceeded in charge of prisoner by Mail Coach Fort William 3pm.
- May 18 Examined licensed store on the Railway Works at Camasdriseach.
- May 20 Examined licensed store on the Railway Works at Polnish.
Called at P.O. and received per Police Inspector Fort William the following articles of new uniform clothing – Forage Cap, Patrol Jacket, Shoulder Cape, a Pair of Trousers and a Pair of white gloves.
- May 28 Thomas Coulter (27), single, navvy, Mallaig charged with Assault and Breach of the Peace committed in Mallaig. Arrested in Mallaig. Kept at Lochailort and conveyed next day to Fort William.
- June 5 Engaged 8am to 2pm at Station getting the Strong Rooms in readiness for Government Inspection 2pm 7th Inst. as instructed by Police Inspector Fort William.
- June 7 Engaged at Station in readiness for Government Inspector. At 2pm Captain Munro, HM Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland and the Chief Constable Inspector, PCs McLennan and Sinclair Arisaig, PC. MacLennan Mallaig, PC McDonald Knoydart, PC MacDonald stationed here and self afterwards. .
- June 8 Called at Navvy Hut occupied by Hugh McQuade (60), married, hut keeper at Glenbeasdale and challenged this person for keeping a dog without a license.
- June 9 Complaint from Mary Sullivan or Doyle (19), wife of and residing with Thomas Doyle residing at Glenbeasdale against Thomas Doyle (21), husband. “I was married to accused in Cork Ireland in February last and we both came to Glasgow about four weeks ago. Remained there a week. On 7th Inst. 8-9am accused came out of Railway Workmen’s Club the worse from drink, came into the house and used filthy and threatening language and repeatedly struck me with his clenched fist about my forehead, made my left eye black with his fist, cut my nose and repeatedly struck me on my right side with his clenched fist.” I afterwards saw accused and charged him with assaulting his wife.
- June 12 Roderick McLennan (24), single, school teacher resides Glenbeasdale. “About 9.30 on Saturday 10th I was standing on the Public Road in front of Isabella McUlloch or Robertson, Navvy Hut Glenbeasdale. A heavy lorry drawn by three horses was being loaded there under the charge of David McConnell, witness. Michael Murphy, now injured, was there and was much the worse of drink. Said witness repeatedly cautioned the now injured man to keep way from the horses. On the three horses yoked to the lorry, moving forward, Murphy made an effort to jump up on the front of the lorry and, not succeeding in this, the front wheel of the right side of the lorry caught hold of and crushed Murphy’s left foot. No blame is attached to any person.”
Saw said Michael Murphy (24), single, navvy, residing in Isabella McUlloch or Robertson’s Navvy Hut and learned from him that no person was to blame for the accident. Michael Murphy was not in Railway employment. Telegram from Fort William Inspector “Michael Murphy should be moved to Fort William Hospital at his own expense or if destitute by the Inspector of Poor”.
- June 14 Complaint against Edward Florke (50), married, Hutkeeper, Arienskill for keeping two dogs without a license for either and for having a third being looked after by Martha Lake or Palmer, Hutkeeper at Arienskill.
- June 15 Proceeded along with John McIntyre with Ambulance Wagon to Glenbeasdale, 9 till 10.15am. Assisted in removing Michael Murphy accidentally injured into said wagon to be brought to the Belford Hospital at Fort William.
- June 22 Met with Nr Anderson, Inland Revenue Officer, Fort William and went to meet Edward Florke anent keeping three dogs without license.
- June 24 Postmistress Jessie McNab (21), single, residing at Kinlochailort delivered telegram to police from the Postmaster at Fort William saying that the police should deliver a caution to men employed in Messr. Macalpine and same for employing men who were attaching Block and Tackle to Telegraph Poles to

- (1899) assist them to forward with a lorry loaded with a Boiler along the Public Road at Arienskill. On further examining the Telegraph Poles, it was found that three of them bore marks of a steel rope having been attached to each and used with Block and Tackle to move said lorry. One Telegraph Pole was pulled down.
- July 4 Telegram from Police Insp. Fort William "Reported Cattle Disease at Inverailort". Reply "No cattle disease at Inverailort".
- July 12 Visited and examined the licensed stores on the Railway Works to Glenbeasdale and found all correct.
- July 17 Edward Flooke trial for no dog license. PC Mackay to attend July 21st. Contravention of the Dog Licenses Act.
- July 21 Sheriff Substitute Davidson and P. McFarlane Esq. Fort William were presiding. Edward Flooke Contravention of the Dog Licenses Act - Charge was not proven. Case of Hugh McQuade contravention of the Dog Licenses Act. McQuade was absent but found guilty. 10/- fine imposed.
- July 28 Instructed to transfer to Fort William on 29th inst. PC Mackay.

P.C. Sinclair

- July 29 PC Sinclair stationed at Kinlochailort
Left residence at Arisaig and had mail coach to Kinlochailort.
- August 11 Met vagrants, Samuel Ross (47), widow and John Ross (15) his son, on their way to Glenfinnan.
- August 14 Wrote a report to C.C. (Chief Constable) regarding a Cattle Beast dead at Inverailort.
- August 26 Midnight saw two men Angus McDougall and William Daly coming out of Hugh Harvey's hut both worse of drink. Angus McDougall explained that he paid four pence the pint for his beer.
- August 28 Saw witnesses in case of Hugh Harvey Shebeening. Witness 1 Angus McDougall (26), unmarried, Water Bailiff employed by Mr Nicholson, Arisaig Estate at Arienskill. Witness 2 William Daly (50), unmarried. Cautioned and charged Hugh Harvey (43), married, Hut Keeper Arienskill. Charged with Shebeening to which he admitted and said that if he would not be prosecuted for this case that he would stop shebeening as long as he was in the place.
- September 5 Report received anent three One pound notes lost by Donald Cumming, Coachman in the employment of Messrs McGregor and Cameron, Coach Hirers Fort William, while driving a van from Glenfinnan to Inverailort.
- September 7 Hugh Harvey, for trial on Shebeening at Fort William 12 noon on 12th September along with two citations for witnesses, Angus McDougall and William Daly, both residing at Arienskill. William Daly was away from his lodgings. Hugh Harvey pleads not guilty.
- September 12 Hugh Harvey found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of 30/- and expenses, or fourteen days imprisonment. He paid the fine and expenses.
- September 14 Malcolm Stewart deserted 27th January 1899 on route from Stornoway to join the Depot Seaforth Highlanders at Fort George and who is believed to be employed on the Railway Works in this district with instructions to enquire for this person and if found to apprehend as a deserter.
- October 2 A Black Highland quey found at Fort Augustus on a croft. Was given instructions to make enquiries in this area with a view to finding the owner.
- October 4 Proceeded by Polish and Mullochbue to Penmeanach. Called on John McDonald, cattle dealer, and made enquiries for the owner of the quey. Proceeded to Glasnacardoch and called on Mary McDonald there, thence to the Schoolhouse and called on Miss M.A. McDonald Schoolmistress.
- October 7 Proceeded to Polish Workmen's Pay Office and called on William Watt Timekeeper there.

(1899)

- October 9 Received from C.C. a memo anent Partial Mobilisation of 1st Class Army reserve, enclosing five Poster Notices and five of the schedules to be exhibited at conspicuous places in my beat.
- October 25 Frances Foley (19), unmarried, navy, residing in Philip Duffie's Navy Hut Kinlochnanuagh. "At 9am I was laying sleepers for the permanent rails near the Navy Hut. I carried one end and Francis Kennedy the other end. My foot slipped and I fell down the north side of the bank. A sleeper fell on my back and I was struck by a sharp stone. I was cut severely from my chin and up my right jawbone. John McQuade came to my assistance and helped me walk to the hut. I fainted twice in the hut. At noon the Railway Doctor (Dr Moorhead) and Dr. Nicoll Arisaig came and dressed the wound on my face. Four stitches were put on it. My left wrist is badly strained and two of my teeth were broken."
- November 10 Proceeded to Kinlochnanuagh and posted a Poster Notice and Schedule regarding Embodiment of the Militia on the door of Cooper & Co. Store there. Another posted at Glenbeasdale, Allan McDonald's Provision Store.
- November 16 Poster notices received regarding Additional Portion of 1st Class Army Reserve.
- December 1 Hugh McKay (20), unmarried, gamekeeper of Inverailort Estate residing at Inverailort found a silver albert watchchain found in Kinlochailort Hotel, night of Saturday 18th November. Called on Hugh McKenzie (27), unmarried, Blacksmith, residing Locheilt who reported loss of a silver watch chain. I showed Hugh McKenzie the chain and identified same to be his property.
- December 16 P.C. McDonald Kinlochailort returned from Railway Hospital Polish. He was walking along with Angus McDonald, Postman for Glenuig, who fell and had his left wrist dislocated. He hired a dogcart from the Hotel and proceeded to the Railway Hospital at Polish where his injuries were attended to by Dr Moorhead.
- December 20 Proceeded to Arnepool and called on Robert McRaid Gamekeeper there.
- December 23 Memo received allowing P.C. McDonald to have Leave of Absence.
- December 24 Made enquiry and search for Vagrants.
- December 25 Made enquiry and search for Vagrants.
- December 26 Mr McNab, Hotel Keeper, Kinlochailort, informed that Donald MacDonald (25), single, farmer, Laggan, Ardnish drowned last night crossing Loch Ailort with a small boat, thirteen feet long, from Roshven to Laggan. Thomas McKenzie came ashore from the search party who were engaged grapneling for the body. Thomas McKenzie (60), married, Farm Manager, employed by Professor Blackburn, Roshven. "I saw that the boat was nearing a shallow sand bank about half way across the loch. I noticed a heavy wave tossing the boat which afterwards disappeared for a few seconds. When I saw the boat again it appeared to be drifting with the wind up Loch Ailort. About 4pm Lexy McDonald, deceased's sister, and Duncan McKenzie, son of witness saw boat was unoccupied. Thomas McKenzie and son went out on boat and saw boat unoccupied. Went to Laggan to inform about death. Got a search party from Benmeanach (sic). Empty boat drifted to shore at Roshven Burying Ground. It had the deceased's coat in it and about a barrellful of water. Search for the body with grapnels but failed to recover it". Agreeing statement from Duncan MacKenzie (38), married, ploughman, Roshven, son of Donald McKenzie.
- December 29 Body of Donald McDonald drowned 25th was recovered 5.15pm. To be interred Arisaig Churchyard 30th. Dr. Moorhead to go to Ardnish to see the body.
- December 30 Statement taken from Alexander McDonald (deceased's brother) (35), married, Captain of Lord Howard's Yacht, residing at Blain, Moidart. "Recovered the body on the west end of the sand bank near which the accident happened. Five fathoms deep. We took the body to Laggan House."

1900

- January 1 Left station 10am. Patrolled around Kinlochailort, proceeded by Railway line to Arienskill. Called on James Bremner Storeman there. Returned to station 4pm. 4 miles, 6 hours. Night, 6pm patrolled about Kinlochmoidart generally till 11pm. Proceeded along the Public Road to Polish. Returned to station 1am. 8 miles, 7 hours.
- January 3 Proceeded to Glenbeasdale Conference point. No conference. Called on Roderick McLennan, Schoolmaster there. Night duty. Called on John McFadyen, Horse Gaffer and made enquiry if he knew addresses of John McDonald, Donald McDonald, and Roderick McLennan, Royal Naval Reserve Volunteers employed on the West Highland Extension Railway Works and lodged with him prior to Whitsunday 1899. He did not know John McDonald or Roderick McLennan but Donald McDonald lodged at Arisaig Mains Autumn 1898 and left September to go home to Scalpay Harris.
- January 6 See photocopy on accident during railway construction when George Colvin was badly injured.
- January 7 Further statements on accident confirming by Roderick Ronaldson (32), single, Navy Ganger and Christopher Spillane (21), single, Fireman, residing in Hugh McQuade's Hut.
- January 15 List of absentees from 3rd Cameron Highlanders (Inverness Militia) presently stationed at Aldshot who were Railway workers at Arienskill; Archd. Morison, John McDonald, Duncan McDonald, Kenneth McDonald and Roderick Ferguson.
- January 16 P.C. McLennan Arisaig on sick leave.
- January 22 Arisaig 1.30pm. Saw that the Shop, Dwelling House and Bakehouse, property of Allan McDonald Merchant, was burned to the ground. He had taken horse and van to Kinlochmoidart selling provisions along Railway Works. Building went on fire while away.
- January 29 till February 1. "Duties on Eigg"
- February 6 Two registered premises for explosives examined – Arienskill and Lochbeig.
- February 8 Telegram "Peter McNally got his leg broken accidentally at Kinlochailort Hotel. Railway Doctor refused attendance because not injured on Railway works and is lying destitute in hut Arienskill."
Reply telegram "Have informed Inspector of Poor Arisaig who should look after destitute cases".
- February 24 At 9.30am left station and when patrolling about Kinlochailort Hotel I saw two navvies, who were accidentally injured in a Railway Cutting near the loading platform at Kinlochailort Station, being carried into the Taproom of Kinlochailort Hotel. Statement of Timothy O'Shea (54), married, navvy, Hugh Hurvey's hut, Arienskill and Thomas Fitzgerald (40), single, Navvy, residing at Owen Curran's Hut, Kinlochailort who severely stated "I was working a fifteen cwt crane in a Railway Cutting opposite the Loading Platform of Kinlochailort Station. The crane was situated on the west side of the line twenty feet from the bottom of the cutting where there is a steep slope covered with about one and a half feet of moss and when in the act of lifting a boxful of stones into the service trucks with said crane, the moss gave way under the legs causing the whole crane to collapse into the cutting. We both fell down with it (Thomas Fitzgerald was out on the top of the head and on the bridge of nose, severely bruised on left leg and arm. Timothy O'Shea was severely bruised on the back and both hips). I was at once carried to the Taproom of Kinlochailort Hotel whence conveyed to the Railway Hospital at Polish. I attach no blame to any person".
Got concurring statements from Owen Curran (40), married, Navvy Ganger and George O'Kuffe (28), single, Navvy, residing at Owen Curran's hut Kinlochailort.
- March 6 Thomas Quinn (48), single, navvy, residing Owen Curran's Navvy Hut, Kinlochailort "I was returning from my work at Trehbeig (Traighbeag?) and at

- (1900) the first cutting on the east side of the Public Road at Polish, the service Engine was waiting to convey our gang to Kinlochailort. I was carrying drills on my shoulder and I threw them into a wagon near the engine which was beginning to start. I hurriedly stepped on to the Engine and in the act of getting up I lost my balance and fell between the buffer of the engine and the end of the wagon and my right leg was broken six inches above my knee by being crushed between the buffer and the wagon. The engine was immediately stopped and I was carried to the Public road by witnesses James Smith and Francis Ryley and thence conveyed in a trap to the Hospital where my injuries were attended to. No blame is attached to any person".
James Smith (49), single, Ganger; Francis Ryley (25), navvy, residing at Owen Currie's Hut, Kinlochailort
- March 27 William Docherty strongly suspected for theft of a silver watch etc. from the person of Donald Kennedy, carpenter, Blaich, Argyllshire on Sunday 18th inst.
- March 28 Inspected Licensed Explosives store at Glenbeasdale.
- May 1 Left station at 9am and proceeded along the railway line to Polish thence by Public Footpath to Ardnish. Called on John McDonald, Farmer, Laggan; Donald McDonald, Cattledealer, Benmeanach (viz.) and Miss M.A. McDonald, School House. Returned by same way to station at 5pm. 16 miles, 8 hours.
- May 5 Wm. Watt, Timekeeper at Polish Railway Workman's Pay Office.
- May 17 Thursday. On Leave of Absence granted by the C.C. till Wednesday May 30th. (14 days).
- May 31 The Mail Steamer "Flowerdale" between Oban and Castlebay Barra etc. was delayed over five hours on which account I was detained at Oban till 6am when I proceeded by S.S. "Fusilier" and arrived at Fort William at 9am.
- June 1 In Fort William was inspected by Captain Munro H.M. Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland and C.C.. Left Fort William 7pm by Hired conveyance along with other P.C.'s and arrived at my station at 2am.
- June 12 Wire "What truth in rumour of man killed by lightning near Kinlochailort last night". I proceeded by Railway Contractors Service Engine to Polish. Returned to Kinlochmoidart by same engine and proceeded to Arienskill and Essan and found that there was no truth in the above rumour. Came back by said engine and sent telegram "No truth in rumour about man killed by lightning last night".
- June 18 Monday. At 10am left station and patrolled about Kinlochailort and along the Railway-line to Arienskill. Called on James Bremner Storeman there.

This is the last entry in the book, but one or two further pages may have been accidentally lost.

Kinlochailort Police Station 1900 – 1901 (3)
R91/DC/5/14/3 at Fort William Archives
30/8/2013

The first entry is June 20th 1900 and the last on November 7th 1913. The last entry relating to Kinlochailort however was made on March 8th 1901. 9 months. The top of each page is marked as having been made by P.C. Sinclair. After a few empty pages there are further entries in the journal which refer to duties carried out in Fort William. The last entry there was made on November 7th 1913.

1900

- June 21. James Bremner Storeman at Arienskill.
- June 24. Proceeded towards Glenbeasdale taking the half-yearly Census of Vagrants. Found William Marshall (73), native of England.
- June 29. Patrolled along the road to Arienskill, called on J.B. Storeman and proceeded by the railway line to Essan.
- June 30 Called on Wm. Watt Timekeeper at Polish.
- July 12 Public road to Arienskill, thence by hill path to Meoble. Called on James McInnes and handed him a Bank Draft for £14/13/6 from the Chief Constable of Airdrie Burgh Police Force together with three Pay sheets to be signed by said James McInnes who was a member of the above Force and had to resign through ill health. The money was sent to me per post last night.
- July 26. Proceeded to Polish Hospital enquiring about lost dog, property of Nurse Hawkins at the Railway Hospital, Kinsaddle, Morar River. The hospital was transferred from Polish to Kinsaddle.
- July 29 At 12.30 pm attended the arrival and departure of an excursion train from Fort William to Mallaig.
- August 2 Thomas Emmitt wanted for the theft of two white moleskin trousers at Mallaig. He travelled in a Railway truck from there to Corpach in company of Phillip Gattens and Thomas Macintosh, navies. PC Sinclair went to Mrs. John Smith's Navy Hut and enquired of Colin Dingwall (25), single, Engine Driver, who said that he drove the accused and two other navies from Glenbeasdale Station at 8.30 pm in a General Traffic Truck where they remained till it arrived at Corpach between 11 pm and midnight.
- August 14 I met on the Public Road at Kinlochailort in charge of two horses and two vans Robert Stewart (29) and William Stewart, twin sons of Isabella Stewart. Sent off telegram to Insp. Chisholm "Convention of Road Act, William and Robert Stewart on way to Glenfinnan tonight".
- August 19 Attended Devine Service at Polish R.C. Chapel.
- August 21 Instructions to do duty at the Lochaber Highland Games. I proceeded at 2.50pm by a machine that had been at Kinlochailort Hotel from Corpach and got thereby to Kinlocheil whence I got the Railway Workmen's train to Corpach where I got on to the Goods Train which conveyed me to Fort William. Arrived at 7.30 and reported myself to Insp. Chisholm Constabulary Office.
- August 22 Wednesday. Proceeded along with other P.C.'s to Victoria Park and remained there on duty at the Lochaber Games till 2pm.
- August 25 Left Fort William per Mail Coach to Glenfinnan whence I got per Railway Contractor's Engine to Essan.
- August 27 Housebreaking and theft at Alltnanuagh near Glenfinnan on 24th August, two jackets stolen from Engineer's Office at Alltnanuagh.
- September 1 Saturday. On duty at Polish Railway Workers Pay Office. Called on John Macdonald, Rannochoan House.
- September 16 Donald MacKay (23), unmarried, navy, accused by Helen Dolan (35) residing with Hutkeeper at Arienskill. Accused of stealing money, handkerchief, shirt, semmit and knitted drawers. Seen going by Railway Contractor's Engine to

- (1900) Mallaig. Police left Kinlochailort by hired conveyance to Arisaig, another hired convey to Mallaig. Found accused in John Macdonald's Navvy Hut at 9.20 pm. Charged with theft and admitted and apprehended him. Conveyed him to Arisaig and then Kinlochailort . Arrived 3am and locked him up.
- September 17 Left 10am by mail coach to Fort William.
- September 18 Accused sentenced to seven days in prison without option of a fine.
- September 25 Met Roderick McLennan, schoolmaster at Meoble. Proceeded to Meoble Shooting Lodge and Meoble pier and saw remains of the Steam Launch "Syren". Charles McLellan (25), unmarried, was interviewed. He is Fireman in the establishment of Mr Jones, Shooting Tenant of Meoble Deer Forest. "I was Fireman on the Steam Launch Syren, thirty feet in keel and used on Loch Morar for the convenience of Meoble Shooting Lodge. I drew the fire out of the boiler which is in the same compartment with the engine and thoroughly extinguished it. The Launch was anchored about 40 yards from the pier. I went back at 11.30pm and the boat was seen on fire. Got help from Mr Donald Gillie and drew her in to the pier, but being made of wood, efforts to extinguish the flame failed. The boat burned to the water mark and sank at the end of the pier. The extent of the damage done will be between six and seven hundred pounds."
- October 22 Called on James Carr, Waterbailiff at Arienskill.
- November 2 Called at the Post Office and received Pay List No. 8 and Inspector's Memo of yesterday anent George Joseph Slow Alimentary Dept.
- November 13 Made enquiry concerning Dog missing from Glen Glenfinnan, the property of Duncan McLaren, Gamekeeper there.
- November 14 Received Inspector's Memo of 13th inst. anent Explosives, enclosing two forms to be filled up by Ewen Stewart or his brother Donald, contractors for the new road and pier at Kinlochailort for a store for Explosives and Licensed premises for daily supply.
- December 24 No vagrants found.

1901

- January 3 Met Donald McDonald, crofter, Penmeanach, Ardnish. He informed that Mary Park (19) was found dead in a byre there between 9 and 10am. She was there for the purpose of milking cows. Proceeded across the hill path to Slock, Ardnish and saw John MacDonald (76), widower, crofter, resident at Slock. "On 3rd January 1901 9 to 10am my granddaughter Mary Park went to a byre about two hundred yards from the house where I keep four beasts in one end and hay in the other. The deceased took a pail with her to milk two cows. About half an hour later I sent another granddaughter of mine, Flora McEachan (witness), to see what was delaying deceased beyond her usual time. Witness came back and told me that deceased was lying on her left side about two yards inside the door of the same byre and she spoke but got no answer. I and my daughter at once ran to said byre and found that the deceased was dead and the pail she took with her was placed by her side without being used. Both her hands were under her head. She was out of reach of any of the cattle to have touched her. I got the body removed to my house. As far as I know the deceased was in good health except that she complained of a pain in her chest a few days preceding her death".
- I read the above statement to the witness Marion or Sarah McDonald (30), unmarried, daughter of and residing with John MacDonald aforesaid and to Flora McEachan (13), daughter of and residing with Allan MacEachan, crofter, Mullochbuie, Ardnish.
- Dr Nicoll, Arisaig, was to see the dead. Policeman was to meet him at 2.30pm at Polish Hospital. He waited till 4.30 but the doctor did not come. Received a telegram to say that Dr. Nicoll was ferrying across from Borrodale to Ardnish.

(1901)

- January 4 Proceeded to Glenshean and saw Mrs Coll McIntosh, Manager to Mr James Head, Inverailort. On 2nd inst. John McLean, Leekavuie, found four of the weathers amissing from Inverailort. The above weathers were found at Slatach Glenfinnan.
- January 10 Stolen vests at Daneal Leny's Navvy Hut, Kinlochailort. Angus McLellan (about 20), Tramp Navvy, had his vest stolen
- January 25 James Carr (32), married, Water Bailiff, Arienskill, reported that a navvy was lying dead on the roadside at Arienskill. " I afterwards hired conveyance (dogcart) and proceeded along with witness Carr at 11.30am and saw the body lying on the road close to the poling about 20 yards on the west side of the bridge that crosses the Railway Line at Arienskill". I conveyed the body to a house at Kinlochailort Hotel and Daniel Leny (34), married, Navvy Ganger at Kinlochailort identified the body as that of John Durnion (70), unmarried, navvy, no fixed address.
- January 26 Proceeded by Railway Line by way of Arienskill to meet Fiscal at 9am. On my way, the Railway workmen's train from Fort William passed me and I was hailed by the guard that the Fiscal was on the train. I returned to Kinlochailort and met Fiscal and Doctor McArthur from Fort William. Pronounced cause of death from exposure. Telegraphed to get a man to dig grave in Arisaig Churchyard. Body to be interred tomorrow. 4pm I got a linen sheet from Mrs McNab, Kinlochailort Hotel of which I made a shroud for the body. 6.30pm I confined the body with assistance of John McDougall, Shepherd, Inverailort.
- January 27. Sunday. Conveyed body of John Durnion to Arisaig assisted by witnesses Daniel Leny and John McDougall. We buried in a place allotted to strangers in said church yard.
- February 1 Received Insp. Chisholm's memo of 31st inst. anent National Mourning for the Queen.
- February 2 Called on James Carr, Waterbailiff at Arienskill.
- February 10 Sunday. Attended Devine Service at the RC Chapel of Polish.
- February 25 Patrolled along the Public Road to Inverailort, called on Alex. Russell Manager there.
- March 8 Friday – The page is labelled P.C. Sinclair Stationed at Kinlochmoidart. The next pages are marked from March 22 1912 till the last page of November 7th 1913 and are headed by William R. Sharpe.

Kinlochailort Police Station 1900 – 1901 (3)
R91/D/C/5/14/4 at Fort William Archives

The first entry is May 24th 1897 by P.C. McNiven who moved away June 15th 1897. P.C. McPherson took on duties on June 15th who continued at Kinlochailort until August 29th 1898. P.C. Alexander McDonald took over duties on September 5th 1898 and the last entry was made by him on September 17th 1899.

1897

- May 24. Left Boat of Gortan 12 noon by train to Kingussie where I met PC Fraser. Thence by coach to Tulloch, thence by train to Fort William where I reported myself to Insp. Chisholm. On duty at 10pm. PC McNiven
- May 25 Left Fort William by coach about 1pm. Arrived Kinlochailort at 6.30pm and met PC McKay with whom I patrolled till 12pm.
- May 26 Patrolled to Camusdrisach and Polish.
- May 29 Left station 9am by way of Kinlochailort Inn by public road to Rannochan and returned by same way to Camusdrasach where I did duty along with PC McKay at the Railway Workmen's pay office. Returned to Station 5pm.
- June 3 Spirit Level reported missing from Kinlochailort. I overtook five navvies and searched them but found no trace of Spirit Level.
- June 15 Patrolled about Kinlochailort Inn where I met PC McPherson who handed me a Memd. from Inspector Chisholm, instructing me to return to Boat of Garten 16th Inst.
- June 14 PC Macpherson. Proceeded by boat Gondalier to Banavie and then by train to Fort William where I reported to Insp. Chisholm at 3.30pm.
- June 15 I proceeded by the Arisaig Coach from Fort William at 12.30, arrived at Kinlochailort at 6pm where I met and conferred with PCs McKay and McNiven. Night Duty – patrolled about the Inn with PC McKay.
- June 20 I and PC McKay made enquiry in case of Theft of double case Hunting lever watch and two purses (8/9^d). See McKay's duty book.
- June 21 Found John Curran (49), widower, navy, Kinlochailort Huts, very much the worse of drink and the second finger of his left hand badly bruised which was the result of an accident at the railway works at Polish. I assisted Dr Nicoll of Arisaig who was then at the Inn to dress John Curran's finger and I saw Curran home to the hut.
- June 22 Saw John Curran and took statement. "I along with Owen Curran and Philip Hughes, was employed working in rock cutting on the railway works at the Black Loch Polish. I began with a crow bar to take the loose stones down the face. On seeing a large stone falling on me I gave a sudden jump aside. The stone caught hold of the middle fingers of my left hand."
- July 28 With PC McKenzie on the case of William Docherty.
- July 31 Duncan Gillies, foreman blacksmith drowned by bathing at Cammsdrisach. See Kinlochailort Police 1 page 3.
- August 8 At 12pm on duty about the Inn I heard a noise in the garden attached to the Inn and along with Norman McCaskill witness went into the garden and found George Shaw (32), married, engineman, Camasdrisach, with stolen cabbages under his Jacket. Accused taken to Fort William.
- August 16 Proceeded to the New Railway Works at Camusdrisach.
- September 3 Found James Carruthers lying in stable at Kinlochailort Inn suffering from having accidentally injured his left leg near the Taproom of the Hotel 4 to 5pm yesterday 2nd September. "Came from Fort William looking for a railway job. I had no money and the Navvies at the Hotel gave me a share of the drink they

- (1897) bought, with the result that with being tired and hungry I on drinking two to three pints Beer I came out the Taproom and got among some planks of timber that lay in a heap on the ground near the taproom door. My left leg got in between two of the planks. I lost my balance and fell sideways. I eased myself from among the planks”.
- September 18 See Kinlochailort Police 1 page 5. “About 1.30pm Bele Hawkins the complainer came from the old school Polish, which is at present being made into a hospital for the group of men employed in the Railway, to the Shelter of Polish. The Shelter is about a mile from Kinlochailort Hotel and the old school house or new hospital is about a mile and three fourths further than the shelter along the Arisaig Public Road from the Hotel. I was at the Shelter when the complaineer returned there and she informed me of being assaulted when returning from the Hospital to the Shelter by some tramp navvy that met with her on the road about a quarter mile from hospital. He struck her a blow on the breast with his fist knocking her down on the public road. Thereafter accused kicked complainer on the head and ribs and caused her to lie in an unconscious state for a time on the road.”
- November 15 Donald Campbell, store keeper a quantity of stolen goods
- December 6 Information and complaint at Polish from Elizabeth McGregor (55), wife of and residing with William McGregor, Ganger and Hut keeper Polish “ I was in the kitchen of my hut 10 to 11 pm and preparing to go to bed. My son Stephen Robinson came ben to the place and told me something unusual was annoying the hens and ducks around the back of the hut. Two to three minutes later ducks came from the hut and made loud noise. About fifty yards from the public road I never used to see the ducks wander during the night time. My hens shelter overnight underneath the flooring of the hut kitchen. In the morning I discovered that four of the hens were stolen by some person who made the ducks and hens make a noise. Four hens worth 8/0^d (shillings)”. Jane McKumskie or McGregor corroborated the complaint. I made enquiry of the theft of four hens visiting and enquiring at the huts along the Railway works at Polish, but found no trace of stolen property.
- December 13 5.30 am proceeded by hired conveyance to Fort William and attended the sitting of the Sheriff Court as witness in the trial of Peter Smith theft of £22/0 from Cooper and Co’s Provision Store . Sheriff Substitute Davidson found the charge against prisoner was not proven. Left Fort William by said hire 4 pm. Arrived here 9.30 pm.
- December 30 Informed by Sarah Fraser Housekeeper to Mr Charles McGregor, Game Keeper, Spean Bridge, that on travelling on the mail coach from Glenfinnan to Kinlochailort she lost a black moroco leather purse containing 24 shillings and three and a half pence. She had the purse when going on the Mail coach at Glenfinnan.

1898

- February 4 Proceeded by pathway to Roshven and handed to Mr William Blackburn the Directory of Sheep Marks (see PC McKay’s Duty Book 3rd Inst.).
- February 22 Assisted PC McKay to apprehend James Smith for assault and robbery (see PC McKay’s Duty Book).
- February 27 (See also PC McKay’s Duty Book). Half a mile east of Kinlochailort Hotel found the body of Innes McLeod, navvy, lying face downwards on the Public Road. Witness assisted me in bringing the body to a stable adjoining the Hotel.
- March 15 Along with PC MacKay enquired for theft of watch, chain and purse from the person of Michael Joyce, Navvy, Borrodale. Found accused at 11.30pm in Campbell’s Hut. Took him to the post office. I conveyed the prisoner with single hire to Fort William.
- April 24 Charles Hamilton apprehended for theft of a jacket, but no evidence found. He was released.

(1898)

- May 24 Information and Complaint from Abraham Livingston (29), single, travelling jeweller residing Fort William. "I left Arisaig with my pony and machine which I use for carrying my jewellery and myself. On coming to Kinlochailort about 3pm I loosed my pony from out of the Machine and put him into one of the stables at the Hotel. I took of (lit.) the Bridle and Reins of the pony and hanged them on a nail and then fed the pony. About 5pm I went into the Stable to put on the Bridle and Reins on my pony for to go towards Glenfinnan. Both buckles and a bit of the leather were cut off with a knife".
- June 11 See the reprinted two pages about how PC MacPherson was attacked by men at Kinlochailort Inn.
- June 12 Apprehended Hugh Harvey, navvy, Ganger, for assaulting me on Saturday 11th. Arrested and taken to Fort William. Arrived 3pm. Met Chief Constable 5pm. Left 8pm by hire. Arrived Kinlochailort 2am.
- June 15 Hugh Harvey was tried before Sheriff Davidson Fort William and pleading guilty was sentenced to pay a fine of £2 or twenty days imprisonment.
- July 8 Left Kinlochailort by Machine and proceeded to Banavie, thence by the 10.05 train to Fort William. Reported myself to Inspector Chisholm at the Constabulary Office at 10.15am. Was inspected by Captain H.M. Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland and the C.C. at 12 noon. Left 4pm by train to Banavie and returned by Machine to Kinlochailort at 10pm.
- August 29 (1898) Last entry by PC McPherson. Sunday left station 10am and proceeded along Public Road to Cammasdrisach and Polish. 6 miles, 13 hours.
- September 5 (1898) Alexr. McDonald. 4am I left Inverness by the "Ethel" for Fort William. Arrived Banavie 1.30pm, then by train to Fort William. Reported to Insp. Chisholm at 2.30pm.
- September 6 I proceeded by the Arisaig Mail Coach from Fort William at 1pm. Arrived at Kinlochailort 6.30 pm where I met and conferred with PC McKay.
- October 5 Informed of accident at Arnabol Glen at 10.30am. Proceeded to Hospital Polish thence by railway works to Arnabol Glen. Found Frank Docherty's deceased body and three others injured. Conveyed them to the Hospital. PC McKay handed me a telegram for Police Insp. Fort William. I proceeded at once to Telegram Office Kinlochailort and waited for reply.
- October 28 Received money order in my favour for £5/4/4^d being the amount of my pay and Contingent account for the four weeks ending 21st inst.
- October 29 10am left Kinlochailort by Mail Coach in assistance with PC Sinclair bringing prisoners Patrick Queen and Henry Forest, theft of clothing at Arisaig.
- October 30 Sunday. Night duty at Fort William. Proceeded to the Free Church and attended devine service there.
- November 25 Received money order of £3/19/7^d being the amount of my pay less ratable deduction for the four weeks.

1899

- January 8 Complaint by John Jones (25), labourer, Mrs Holerstone (?) Navvy Hut, Glenbeasdale. Complaint against Patrick Donoghan Ass. of B of P alleged Insanity and states "Accused came in and threatened to throw gunpowder over complainer. He struck with fist. I fell to floor and then he gave me a kick in the back. He stood over me cursing and swearing and threatened he would kill me. I am of the opinion that accused is of unsound mind as often, during the past four weeks, he gets up out of bed at night and shouts aloud Shirids (?) against some people at his home in Ireland which he seems to see coming towards him".
- March 23 Alexander Ross (18), unmarried, labourer "William McGregor Hut Polish was accidentally injured in a rock cutting at Polish. He got a severe blow in the mouth and lost the sight of one of his eyes and doubtful but he may loose the sight of the other one by an explosion".

- (1899) William McGregor (50), married, Hut Keeper Polish. "I am a ganger in charge of said rocks cutting with a squad of twelve men. The cutting is about 200 yards long and averaging fifty feet in depth, the rock being cleared out to the level of the Railway and presently dressing the sides of the cutting. I had twenty yards placed into the cutting of the Rails. Today I found it necessary to remove one of the sleepers owing to its being broken. I called on Alex. Ross now injured and William Ressich (?) to assist me in removing the sleeper. The gravel being hard I told the injured man to take a pick and pointed out the sleeper to be removed, and, on Ross giving the first blow with his pick, there was an explosion, just as the pick struck. There was a loud report and a quantity of gravel was thrown which struck the injured man about the face. I at once caught hold of the man now injured. He was bleeding about the face and seemed to be severely injured. With assistance of William Kernell and other men working with me took him to my hut and on to the Cottage Hospital Polish. I am of the opinion that a cartridge must have been underneath the surface. I cannot account for how this cartridge came to be under the gravel used in setting the permanent Rails.
- April 20 With PC McKay called on Helen Dolan, navy wife residing Arienskill. Const. McKay was talking with Helen Harvey. I saw Helen Currans come out of the Hut Keeper's part of the Hut and carrying something strange. I went forward to her, caught hold of the shawl from out of her left hand. I took possession of a ring to the same description as being stolen. Charged Helen Currans with the theft which she denied, saying that she bought it from complainer last night for four pence, that there were men present seeing her buying it. Const. MacKay and I was refused permission from Helen Harvey to search her Hut for any of the other articles stolen.
- May 7 Assisted PC McKay to apprehend Thomas Holmes for theft of Gold Chain etc and to take accused to lockup at Kinlochailort. (See MacKay book)
- May 23 Had new trousers altered to fit.
- June 7 All the PCs from Arisaig, Mallaig and Moidart arrived here by Mail Coach. All the PCs stood in a line according to Rank in front of Police Station here: and then were inspected by Captain Munro and the Chief Constable: afterwards they inspected the Cabin Cells.
- June 8 Charged Hugh MacQuaid (60), married, Glenbeasdale of keeping a dog with no licence.
- June 13 £5/19/7 payment.
- June 14 Edward Fluch (50), married, Arienskill. Charged with having two dogs without a license.
- June 18 Went by public road to Rhue pier and waited the departure of SS Claemore going south making an enquiry for Patrick Nicholson on theft of clothing at Kinlochailort, but failed to find any trace.
- July 20 See the reprint of two pages where P.C. MacDonald dealt with a case raised by a tramp navy against the shops where his allowance claim would not be accepted. The tramp Alexander King was called by others James Puzzle because he had been convicted at Fort William Court for cutting off a piece of the Monkey Puzzle Tree at Glenfinnan.
- August 6 Disturbance in the men's room Arienskill caused by John Betson.
- August 18 Telegram that a Young Black Horse had strayed from Spean Bridge. Wire Reply made that John MacDonald (28), single, coachman, Kinlochailort Hotel, drove a mail coach from Kinlochailort to Banavie and on return about Ardlui Lodge he met with the young black horse on the Public Road and it kept all the way before him to Glenfinnan where he put him into a field so that the horse would not come further. He then proceeded towards Kinlochailort. The horse jumped the dyke and followed him to Kinlochailort where the horse is still about on the Public Road.

(1899)

- August 23 Received 7½^d (in stamps) as payment for sending information about the missing horse.
- September 11 Left Kinlochailort by Mail Coach for Fort William arriving 3.15pm and reported to Insp. Chisholm. Received the sum of 2/6^d granted to me by the exciseman in the case of Hugh McQuaid's Contravention of Dog License Act. There saw Proc. Fiscal and seeing I had no (lit.) much evidence in the Case of Hugh Harvey's Shebeening, as instructed in Insp Chisholm's Memorandum of 7th and 9th inst., if William Daily would not appear as witness that I was to appear according to Insp Chisholm's instructions. I left Fort William by train to Banavie thence by Kinlochailort conveyance to station at 12 midnight.
- September 12 Called on Donald McNab Kinlochailort Hotel and paid him the sum of 6/0^d for conveyance from Corpach to Kinlochailort on the 11th Inst and got receipt which I have to send to the C.C.
- September 17 Last entry by PC MacDonald. Sunday 17th September 1899. At 10 am left Station. Patrolled about Kinlochailort and by Public Road to Polish. Returned by same way to station at 4pm. 6 miles. 6 hours.
Night Duty. At 7pm left Station and patrolled about Kinlochailort and by public road to Camusdrisach. Returned by same way to Station at 10pm. 4 miles and 3 hours on duty.