

*ALEXANDER THOMSON
MUNRO (1854-1924)
BY ANONYMOUS*

Alexander Thomson Munro retired aged forty-seven on ill health grounds in 1901 after working for the Post Office for twenty-four years. He retired with an annual pension of £24 11s 9d (£3,100 today) but died a very wealthy man. How come?

Let's look at his life story to find out. Alexander was born in the parish of Creich in the county of Sutherland in about 1854. Sutherland is a large county (2,028 square miles) in the Highlands of Scotland stretching from the Atlantic in the west to the North Sea in the east. It features many mountains and lochs with a population of approximately 24,200 when Alexander was born.¹

Alexander's parents were John Munro, a crofter, and Janet Sutherland. Both his parent's families originated in Creich and were members of the United Free Church of Scotland as were Alexander and his siblings. This church broke away from the Church of Scotland in 1843 and Alexander made financial contributions to the "Wee Frees" throughout his life.

Alexander was the seventh of nine children – Jessie and Janet both born around 1843, William born around 1845, Catherine and Ebenezer both born around 1847 and John born around 1850 were older and Marion born 1856 who was two years younger. Sadly, an unnamed male child was also born and died in 1859.

In 1861 Alexander was nine and a scholar living at Linside in Creich in the district of Rosehall in Sutherland with his parents and siblings. His father John was fifty-seven and a farmer of eight acres.

In 1871 Alexander was sixteen still living at Linside with his parents and four siblings where he was a farmer's son. Alexander no doubt helped his father on the farm as his father was now sixty-eight but the farm was now twenty acres.

In 1881 Alexander was twenty-six living at Farm House, Maikie in Creich in the district of Bonar in Sutherland where he was a farm servant. He was also working at the Post Office in 1881 but his occupation on the 1881 census is farm servant. Perhaps this shows he was a hard worker.

In 1882 Alexander's father died and in 1887 Alexander aged thirty-three married Ann Falconer aged forty-four in the District of Rosehall, Sutherland. Ann Falconer was the daughter of a farmer who farmed forty acres at Reriach, Nairnshire in 1851. Due perhaps to the age of the bride there were no children of the marriage.

¹ "Historical Sutherland Population" (table), *Wikipedia*. [Link](#).

In 1888 Alexander was the tenant occupier of a house, shop and land at Invercassley.

From 1889 to 1899 he was the tenant occupier of Loubcory approximately eight miles west of Rosehall.

In 1891 Alexander was thirty-six living at the Post Office in Creich, Rosehall, where he was Sub Postmaster and Postman. Also resident there were his wife Ann (forty-six), his niece Lily Ann Munro (five), Kate Munro a domestic servant (eighteen), Janet McIvor (sixteen) also a domestic servant, and David Ross (twenty), a farm servant. So, was Alexander running two businesses at once considering he also had a house, shop and land at Invercassley?

In 1901 Alexander was forty-seven and living as the Postmaster at Invercassley, Rosehall, Sutherland. Also resident there were his wife Ann (fifty-one) and a postmaster's wife, his niece Lily Ann Munro (fifteen) a postmaster's assistant, his nephew Duncan MacIver (sixteen) a farm servant, his brother John Munro (forty-nine) a maildriver, his servant and cook Annie McDonald (twenty-one) and his servant and a general domestic Rachel Horne (fifteen). Although he had been promoted within the Post Office and was employing servants and family members to help run the Post Office at Invercassley, this was the year Alexander retired from the Post Office. So what did he do next?

From 1905 to 1924 he was the tenant occupier of the old Post Office at Invercassley, Rosehall.

Below is a current photograph of the old Post Office, Rosehall. When Alexander died on 31st December 1924 of chronic cardiac disease aged seventy-one, twenty-three years after leaving the Post Office, he was a general merchant and his place of death was the Post Office, Rosehall.



Figure 1: The old Post Office, Rosehall. Google Street View.

Alexander worked hard running a successful shop in retirement and investing his money well. Even when working for the Post Office he had other jobs.

His will dated 27 December 1922 appointed his nephew John Ireland Falconer as his executor. The total value of Alexander's estate was £7,832 0s 4d (£480,000 today). So we know Alexander Thomson Munro was wealthy -- perhaps proof that hard work does pay.

Below is an inventory of his moveable estate: -

1	Cash in deceased's repositories	£444	2	9
2	Personal effects	£18	10	-
3	£1,050 registered £5 ¾ % Exchequer Bonds 1925 at 100 £1,050.-.-			
	Interest from 1 st August 1924 to date of death less tax £19.12.3	£1,069	12	3
4	£500 5% war stock 1929 – 1947 bearer @ 101 ½	£507	10	-
5	£2,100 5% war stock 1929 – 1947 bearer @ 101 ½	£2,131	10	-
6	£2,052.12.6 5% war stock 1929 – 1947 bearer @ 101 ½	£2,083	8	3
7	£500 National Savings Certificated dated 15 th November 1923 £400.0.0			
	Accrued interest £6.5.-	£406	5	-
8	Deposit receipt with Bank of Scotland Lairg dated 5 th June 1924 £120.13.9			
	Interest to date of death £1.7.3	£122	1	-
9	Deposit receipt with Bank of Scotland Lairg dated 30 th June 1924 £65. .			
	Interest to date of death £0.12.8	£64	12	8
10	Deposit receipt with Bank of Scotland Bonar Bridge dated 19 th December 1924 £ 651.11.11			
	Interest to date of death £0.8.4	£652	-	3
11	Stock & Implements of craft tenanted by deceased	£149	10	3
12	"Ford" sedan car	£75	-	-
		£7,724	2	5

<u>Interest</u>				
<u>1</u>	Deposit receipt No 10452 with Bank of Scotland Bonar Bridge branch dated 18 th June 1924 in name of A. T. Munro for U. F. Church Rosehall £29.8.4			
<u>2</u>	Deposit receipt No 10567 with Bank of Scotland Bonar Bridge branch dated 10 th September 1924 in name of A. T. Munro and John M Fraser U. F. Manse for U. F. Church Rosehall to be drawn by either of them or survivor £87.0.0			

After appointing his executor and payment of his debts he made the following bequests: -

1. To nephew John MacIver, Postman, Rosehall £300 and his rights to the park near the United Free Church Rosehall acquired by him about the year 1910 and for which he paid a yearly rent of £5 10s;
2. To the United Free Church in Rosehall £100;
3. To nephew Duncan McIver £100;
4. To brother John Munro, Linside £700;
5. To niece Ella Mann or Ross £100;
6. To niece Jessie Margaret Mann £1,000;
7. To niece Johanna Falconer Mann £1,000;
8. To niece Ina McIver, Linside £300;
9. To nephew John Ireland Falconer £100;
10. Any remaining estate was to be divided equally between nieces Jessie Margaret Mann and Johanna Falconer Mann.

Alexander's nephew and executor John Ireland Falconer was a partner in the Edinburgh law firm Fyfe Ireland and Co - one of Edinburgh's oldest and most respected law firms. He became Lord Provost of Edinburgh in 1944 and was knighted in 1946.

Pensioner Details

Pensioner name: Alexander Thomson Munro

Person ID: SC1025

Your name: Jane Masters

USA group: Scotland

Part One: Birth and Family

1: When and where was your pensioner born?

Alexander Thomson Munro was born in approximately 1854 in Creich, Sutherlandshire. It has not been possible to find a registration of a birth for him or any of his siblings born before 1855.

2: Who were your pensioner's parents? Record any details you can find out about them here (e.g. occupation, religious affiliation, whether they could read or write)

Alexander Thomson Munros parents were John Munro a crofter and Janet Sutherland. His sister Jessie Munro was married in the United Free Church of Scotland. His father John Munro was born in 1795 and died aged 86 - 87 in 1882 and is buried in Achness Burial Ground, Achness, Rosehall, Sutherland.

It is believed that the family were members of the United Free Church of Scotland. The nearest church to where they lived is Rosehall Free Church built circa 1844. A picture of this church is below. The brother of Alexander Munro's wife was the minister at this church until his death in 1890.



3: Did your pensioner have any siblings? What were their names, and how old were they in relation to your pensioner? Use this space to record anything else you have found out about them (e.g. occupation, later life)

Alexander Thomson Munro had the following siblings:-

Jessie Munro born about 1843 in Linside More, Creich, Sutherland who was approximately 11 years older than Alexander Thomson Munro. She married William Maclver on 15 January 1867 in the District of Rosehall in the County of Sutherland and had 10 children. Her husband was a Railway Surfaceman. She died aged 61 on 24 December 1904 in Invershin, in the Registration District of Bonar in the County of Sutherland of "Phthisis Pulmonalis".

Janet Munro born about 1843 in Linside More, Creich, Sutherland who was approximately 11 years older than Alexander Thomson Munro.

William Munro born about 1845 in Linside More, Creich, Sutherland who was approximately 9 years older than Alexander Thomson Munro. It is possible that he married an Eliza Ewart in 1863 in Rosehall.

Catherine Munro born about 1847 in Linside More, Creich, Sutherland who was approximately 7 years older than Alexander Thomson Munro. It is possible that she married Donald Munro in 1864 in Rosehall. It is possible that she died aged 75 in 1923 in Bonar.

Ebenezer Munro born about 1849 in Linside More, Creich, Sutherland who was approximately 5 years older than Alexander Thomson Munro. It is possible that he married Catherine Ritchie in 1871 in Coupar Angus. He died aged 47-48 in 1896 and is buried in Achness Burial Ground, Achness, in the Registration District of Rosehall, Sutherland.

John Munro born about 1850 in Linside More, Creich, Sutherland who was approximately 4 years older than Alexander Thomson Munro. He died aged 79 in 1930 in the Registration District of Rosehall, Sutherland.

Marion Munro born 1 March 1856 in Rosehall, Creich, Sutherland who was approximately 2 years younger than Alexander Thomson Munro.

Another male child was born 22 July 1859 in Rosehall, Creich, Sutherland who was approximately 5 years younger than Alexander Thomson Munro. He died aged 0 in 1859 in Rosehall without being named.

Part Two: Marriage and children/ boarders

1: Did your pensioner marry? What was their spouse's name, and when and where did they marry them? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about their

spouse (e.g. when/where they were born, their occupation). **Note:** *You can also use this space to record any details about people your pensioner boarded with.*

Alexander Thomson Munro married Ann Falconer in 1887 in the Registration District of Rosehall in the County of Sutherland. Ann Falconer was born on 26 July 1843 in Cawdor, Nairnshire and died aged 79 in 1922 in the Registration District of Rosehall, Sutherland. Her parents were John Falconer born on 15 February 1794 in Cawdor, Nairnshire a farmer of 40 acres at Reriach, Nairnshire in 1851 and Lillias Falconer (Maiden Surname Tulloch) born 5 January 1813 at Whinhill, Cawdor and who were married on 12 December 1834 in Cawdor, Nairnshire. They had six children.

The elder brother of Alexander Thomson Munros mother Ann Munro was John Falconer – born 1835 died 1890 and he was the minister of the United Free Church at Rosehall. At his death his estate was valued at £294 13s 10d.

2: Did your pensioner have any children? What were their names, and when they were born? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about them (e.g. occupation, where they lived later in life)

No.

Part Three: Work

1: What occupation was your pensioner recorded as doing in census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

1861: Listed as "Scholar"

1871: Listed as "Farmer's Son"

1881: Listed as "Farm Servant"

1891: Listed as "Sub Postmaster and Postman"

1901: Listed as "Postmaster"

There are many Alexander Munro's listed in the 1911 Census but it has not been possible without incurring significant expense to identify the correct one.

2: What occupations were people living with your pensioner (e.g. spouse, children, boarders) doing in the census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

1861: Alexander Thomson Munro was aged 9 living at Linside in Civil Parish of Creich in the Registration District of Rosehall in the County of Sutherland where he was a Scholar. Also residing with him were John Munro aged 57 his father and a Farmer of 8 acres, Janet Munro aged 48 his mother and a Farmer's Wife, Jessie Munro aged 18 his sister, William Munro aged 16 his brother, Ebenezer Munro aged 13 his brother and a Scholar, John

Munro aged 11 his brother and a Scholar and Marian Munro aged 5 his sister and a Scholar.

1871: Alexander Thomson Munro was aged 16 living at Linside in Civil Parish of Creich in the Registration District of Rosehall in the County of Sutherland where he was a Farmer's Son. Also residing with him were John Munro aged 68 his father and a Farmer of 20 acres, Janet Munro aged 56 his mother and a Farmer's Wife, Jessie Mclvor aged 28 his sister and a Farmer's Daughter, William Munro aged 26 his brother and a Farmer's Son, John Munro aged 20 his brother and a Farmer's Son, Marion Munro aged 14 his sister and a Farmer's Daughter, Alexandrina Mclvor aged 3 his niece and John Mclvor aged 1 his nephew.

1881: Alexander Thomson Munro was aged 26 living at Farm House Maikie in Civil Parish of Creich in the Registration District of Bonar in the County of Sutherland where he was a Farm Servant. Also residing with him were Alexander Murray aged 83 the Head of the house and a Farmer of 30 acres, Jannet Murray aged 63 the wife of the Head and a Farmer's Wife, Jessie Murray aged 40 the daughter of the Head and a Farm Servant and Isabella Murray aged 36 the daughter of the Head and a Farm Servant.

1891: Alexander Thomson Munro was aged 36 living at the Post Office in Civil Parish of Creich in the Registration District of Rosehall in the County of Sutherland where he was Sub Postmaster and Postman. Also residing with him were Ann Munro aged 46 his wife, Lily Ann Munro aged 5 his niece, Kate Munro aged 18 a General Servant (Domestic), Janet Mclvor aged 16 a General Servant (Domestic) and David Ross aged 20 a Farm Servant.

1901: Alexander Thomson Munro was aged 47 living at Invercassley in Civil Parish of Rosehall in the Registration District of Rosehall in the County of Sutherland where he was the Postmaster. Also residing with him were Ann Munro aged 51 his wife and a Postmaster Wife, Lily Ann Munro aged 15 his niece and Postmaster Assistant, Duncan MacIver aged 16 his nephew and a Farm Servant, John Munro aged 49 his brother and a Mail Driver, Annie McDonald aged 21 his Servant and a Cook and Rachel Horne aged 15 his Servant and a General Domestic.

There are many Alexander Munro's listed in the 1911 Census but it has not been possible without incurring significant expense to identify the correct one.

In 1888 he was the tenant occupier of a house, shop and land at Invercassley. From 1889 To 1899 he was the tenant occupier of Loubcory approximately 8 miles west of Rosehall. From 1905 to 1924 he was the tenant occupier of a house at Invercassley. This house is the Old Post Office at Rosehall.

Below are two current photographs of the Old Post Office at Rosehall. When Alexander Thomson Munro died on 31 December 1924, he was a General Merchant and his place of death was the Post Office, Rosehall.



Part Four: Anything Else/Later Life

Please use this space to record anything else you have found out about your pensioner. For example: what do we know about their life after retirement?

Alexander Thomson Munro appears to have had a very comfortable life after retirement. He made a will dated 27 December 1922 appointing his nephew John Ireland Falconer WS 71 Hanover Street, Edinburgh as his executor. The value of his estate was £7,724 2s 5d. The value of his additional estate was £107 17s 11d.

A copy of his will and various codicils and the value of his estate at the date of death together with my transcription thereof are attached. After appointing John Ireland Falconer as his executor and payment of his debts he made the following bequests: -

1. To his nephew John MacIver, Postman, Rosehall £300 and his rights to the park near the United Free Church Rosehall acquired by him about the year 1910 and for which he paid a yearly rent of £5 10s;
2. To the United Free Church in Rosehall £100;
3. To his nephew Duncan McIver £100;
4. To his brother John Munro, Linside £700;
5. To his niece Ella Mann or Ross £100;
6. To his niece Jessie Margaret Mann £1,000;
7. To his niece Johanna Falconer Mann £1,000;
8. To his niece Ina McIver, Linside £300;
9. To his nephew John Ireland Falconer £100;
10. Any estate remaining after the above bequests were paid was to be divided equally between his nieces Jessie Margaret Mann and Johanna Falconer Mann.

The present-day value of his estate is estimated to be £480,000 so Alexander Thomson Munro was a wealthy man.

Alexander Thomson Munro's nephew and executor John Ireland Falconer became Lord Provost of Edinburgh in 1944 and was knighted in 1946.



John Ireland Falconer (seated) Lord Provost of Edinburgh, speaking to Baillie Turnbull by telephone from G.P.O. Headquarters, London. Standing is Mr. W.A. Burke, Assistant Postmaster General. Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Vintage-photo-Ireland-Falconer-Burke/dp/B07H759DJB>

Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

Ancestry Source Citations:-

1861 Census for Alexander Thomson Munro - Parish: *Creich*; ED: 1; Page: 13; Line: 10; Roll: *CSSCT1861_7*

1871 Census for Alexander Thomson Munro - Parish: *Creich* ; ED: 1; Page: 3; Line: 12; Roll: *CSSCT1871_9*

1881 Census for Alexander Thomson Munro - Parish: *Creich* ; ED: 6; Page: 5; Line: 16; Roll: *cssct1881_12*

1891 Census for Alexander Thomson Munro - Parish: *Creich* ; ED: 3; Page: 1; Line: 10; Roll: *CSSCT1891_13*

1901 Census for Alexander Thomson Munro - Parish: *Rosehall*; ED: 3; Page: 1; Line: 7; Roll: *CSSCT1901_13*

1867 Marriage certificate for Jessie Munro - Statutory Register of Marriages 046/2 1

1904 Death certificate for Jessie Munro – Statutory Register of Deaths 046/1 19

1925 Will of Alexander Thomson Munro – National Records of Scotland – Wills and testaments Reference SC9/36/14, Dornoch Sheriff Court Image 144

1888 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000009

1889 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000009

1895 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000011

1896 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000011

1897 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000011

1898 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000011

1899 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000011

1905 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000013

1906 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000013

1907 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000013

1908 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000013

1909 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000013

1915 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000015

1916 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000015

1917 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000015

1918 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000015

1919 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000015

1920 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000015

1921 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000016

1922 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000016

1923 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000016

1924 - Valuation Rolls for Alexander Thomson Munro in Creich (Sutherland) reference VR012000016