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1866 LAMONT, JOHN (Statutory Deaths 168/01 0006)

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Page 302. of Aberdeen 1866. DEATHS in the Distance of M (j.) (4.) Name and Surnance Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Pather. Signature & Qualification of Informant and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred. When and where Registered and Bigunture of Registrar. Rank or Profession, atu whether Bingle, Married, or Widowed. When and Where Died. Name, and Malden Surname of Mother ames Brodie 1866 Brodie August 24" Occupies the mixtell hairens 904 Gardenev Sane assistant Registral assistant-11. Guinnets 11.9. Merdeen Registrar Tilliam 186% Lulge/ ancust august 28; t Blerder Mother 20m. P.11 905 Domestie Servent Gorse Suthinles Sincle Yall Pour House Reculiar Lurgeon Mesitimater Alber deen Resistrar Mitrief Paralysis 1866 Auonat Son aucust 28 amont-Farmer/ Calhow House t Aberdien deunsed 5 h 30m. 19.11. bullen! 006 Master Denicho Kelel Menket Chest Slurden William Persace Accideras Will Cotting His W. O. (elecaside

Hi John

Delighted to hear you're planning to write up the story of John Lamont, a character who has always intrigued me. I was told of him by my mother who lived in Ruaig as a child and was very close to her grandfather, Jain Na Hongs. I went looking for Lamont's Dock when I visited HK in 1990 but by then it was too late. The story I was told was that he built the first dry dock in Hong Kong, ? married a Chinese woman by whom he had two sons and died a wealthy man, leaving a thousand pounds to each of his nephews but 2000 to my great grandfather because he was called after him! This latter John Lamont built, or at least extended, what is now Carsamull. According to my mother he was a very kind generous man and very sociable (with hints that he may have been a little too fond of an occasional refreshment) and that his wife (one of the MacFadyens of Heanish) was a more sensible woman who evidently at one point took the residue of the legacy and got a fisherman from Brock to take her to deposit it in the bank in Tobermory. There were also tales that one of the legatees had bought an "estate in Mull" but I have never been able to track down who this might have been. This past summer Duncan put me in touch with the great grand-daughter of John Lamont HK and we have been in touch by phone and hope to meet soon. She is now quite old and has recently become interested in tracing her roots. She told me that John Lamont's two sons were left an annuity of £400 a year each until they were 30 at which age they came into their fortune, as Jane Austen might say, an indication of how much money he must have left. There is a considerable amount about him and the dock on the internet and there is a book which mentions his role in the development of HK, The Thistle and the Jade. In some places he is called Captain John Lamont but elsewhere he is described as a carpenter. He evidently had conducted a shipyard at East Point sice 1841 and then built Lamont's Dock, the first dry dock in HK, at Aberdeen, completing the work on the 1st Jan 1859. It was evidently demolished onthe 31st Dec. 1970. Somone told me that it was still standing when Alastair MacArthur Rosigal first went to HK but I've never asked him about it. It was evidently 335 ft. long and built of granite with "every requisite for the

repair of vessels both of wood and iron, the whole under the Superintendence of European Foremen" He then went on to build the Hope Dock for the repair of Naval vessels, receiving a grant of £3000 from the British Government to proceed with the work. Both docks were bought in 1865 by the Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock company. He seems to have been mixed up with other worthies of the time such as Jardine and

Matheson. I wonder if he conversed in Gaelic with the latter? A quote from the Thistle and the Jade writing of Jardine Matheson states "John Lamont, a resourceful, self-made Scots ship-wright maintained the firm's ships. He worked on his own account, often with

a queue of ships waiting attention, but still managed to build small vessels including the first foreign ship to be constructed in Hong Kong, a schooner for Jamstjee Jejelbhoy. He subsequently became proprietor of the Lamont's Dock at Aberdeen. When he died the

Governor himself proposed a toast to the memory of this once "common carpenter"

who partly with the firm's support had made a large fortune." Most of this info is from