INTRODUCTORY NOTE:

I am researching the Scottish miniature artist Alexander Gallaway (1759-1835), born in St Ninian’s parish.

I have found a great deal about him (see outline below) and am now interested in anything on the following:

1) Whereabouts of Gallaway miniatures in private hands (for research purposes only at this stage).

2) Family/business connections between the Gallaways of Borrowmeadow and Larkfield and various local families between early 1700’s – c. 1800 – Neilson of Larkfield, Wordie of Torbrex, Murray of Wester Livilands, Stewart of Stewart Hall.

***Alexander Gallaway, a Portrait in Miniatures: an Introduction to the Scottish artist*** by Frances Rouse

**OUTLINE**

The watercolour-on-ivory portrait miniatures of artist Alexander Gallaway (1759-1835), fill a gap in the pantheon of these more well-known artists of the period such as Raeburn, Nasmyth, Williams and Wilkie. Frances’ chronological image list of nearly 80 now provides important insights into his artistic development over the 22 years 1794 to 1816.

Although Gallaway’s work is held in the collections of the V & A, Kenwood House, London, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, and the Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinatti, USA, and many private collections, he has been almost anonymous *till now*. Who *was* he? Why does there need to be a book about him? The answer is simple: because of the quality of his work and the truth of his characterisation.

Of the portrait of Mary Robertson (SNPG), Dr Stephen Lloyd (Curator of the Derby Collection, Knowsley Hall, and formerly Senior Curator of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery) writes in *Portrait Miniatures from the Merchiston Collection,* National Galleries of Scotland, 2005, it is “remarkable for its unflinching attention to detail and close observation of character.” He further notes (email to author): "... such an interesting and little-studied miniaturist. There certainly is a need for a publication on him". Philip Mould, art expert and dealer, on his website [www.historicalportraits.com](http://www.historicalportraits.com) also comments on the 1797 portrait of an unknown gentleman, that Gallaway was *clearly an excellent miniaturist.*

Just *how* Gallaway’s work remained ‘hidden’ all this time is intriguing. In the artist’s entry in *Miniatures: Dictionary and Guide. Woodbridge 1987* by the inestimable Daphne Foskett (1911 -1998), family names appear to have been the victim of (perhaps) aural mis-transcription and even typographical errors. But Frances has discovered a similar group of names in a Scottish cemetery with crucially, slightly different spellings – a major breakthrough.

Gallaway painted (at least) 23 named commissions of eminent people such as playwright and politician Richard Brinsley Sheridan, General Sir Charles Ross, James Gray-Buchanan of Ardoch and Scotstown, Lady Isabella Brydges, and James Cuninghame, 14th Earl of Glencairn. Merchant, banking, legal, army and navy, and landed families also feature.

Gallaway’s work deeply reflects his own personal life as well as recording the wider social world. He came from a comfortably-off family with merchant connections, and Frances’ research reveals many of his sitters were relatives through his marriage, his children’s and even future grandchildren’s. His sister Jean’s extensive will gives a detailed account of the ownership of various pieces of land, with bequests to all of Alexander’s children.

Inheriting herself 4 miniatures by Gallaway, (in Australia), Frances discovered 2 of his daughters and their families had emigrated there. Some of their descendants have provided important background information and several previously unknown miniatures.

No wonder the phrase ‘little known’!

Frances comments: *My interest in Gallaway seriously began a number of years ago when I tried to trace the sitters in my miniatures. This resulted in an educated guess only, and so I turned to the artist himself. Unexpectedly, it was Gallaway himself who was discovered; or perhaps,* re*discovered.*

Genealogy websites such as Familysearch and Ancestry proved fruitful and also various Scottish sites, eg. Scotland’s People; the National Library of Australia provided access to 18th and 19th century newspapers, post office directories and Oxford Dictionary of Biography etc. Gallaway was tracked from Stirling to Glasgow to Edinburgh and back to Glasgow and even up to Nairn. Museums in the UK and USA also generously supplied information and images of their Gallaway miniatures; and others were located in online auction sites.

In August-September 2014 Frances will travel to Scotland and London to visit relevant sites and archives, also researching Bonhams’, Christies’ and Sotheby’s catalogues. Ongoing contact with Gallaway descendants and museums will provide further information, especially relating to private collections.

**POSSIBILITIES**

Gallaway’s work would make a wonderful exhibition and catalogue. A web site would also be complementary to a publication/exhibition. And who knows, a museum in his birthplace of Borrowmeadow Farm near Stirling?

**FRANCES ROUSE’S BIOGRAPHY**

Frances currently lives in Australia. She began researching, (and continues to research) 18th and 19th century British and Pacific history for her play, *Counting Icebergs* about Elizabeth, wife of Captain James Cook. She has contributed to various history journals such as the *Leicestershire Historian,* Captain Cook Society’s *Cook’s Log,* and Australian National Maritime Museum’s *Signals.* Parallel and complementary research also continues into her great-great-grandfather the Regency London printer J.G. Barnard who had many connections to Scotland, both business and personal; he may be one of her miniatures.

Frances is also a published poet and short story writer; and has had work broadcast on ABC Radio National and Radio Denmark. Originally trained and working professionally as a graphic designer in print, television and advertising, she also has continuing experience and interest in the visual arts, art history and photography. For various projects she has been interviewed on radio and television. These writing, visual and research skills make her ideally suited to introducing Alexander Gallaway to a wider audience.

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**GALLAWAY MINIATURES, IMAGES**

ROUSE MINIATURES 1809 (collection of author)

   