

**Kildonan Police Station Daily Occurrence Book, P.C. J. Ross, 1869–1892
(GB0232/R91/B/5/10/1)**

1869, September

4th - Saturday –

At 10am left my station and proceeded Suisgill, visited the diggings there, heard no complaints, returned to my station at 3pm. Patrolled about Baile an Or and about 5pm Duncan Fraser aged 45 years a storekeeper residing at Baile an Or Kildonan and County of Sutherland, lodged a complaint with me stating as follows. “About 4.30pm of this date, I went into my shop for some gold to show to a gentleman which was in my house at the time. I kept my gold in a coffee canister in a box on a shelf in my shop. Instead of finding my canister with the gold I found an empty canister of the same description in the box aforesaid similar to my own. There would be over two ounces of gold in my canister. Between 12 and 1pm, of the 3rd inst., I was showing the gold in the canister to a Commercial Traveller. I suspect Robert Rider aged 41 years, married, a furrier to trade, from Birkenhead, England and is residing at Kildonan for some time back but had a gold miner’s license for 4 or 5 days of the end of last month. He left Kildonan today and he had no money to my knowledge. He was in my shop this forenoon and knew very well where I kept my gold. I wish the gold to be discovered and if traced to any person I wish him prosecuted.” After getting the above statement signed by Duncan Fraser I at once proceeded to Helmsdale, met Sergeant Anderson there and P.C. Donald Sutherland about 8.20pm. I informed Sergeant Anderson of the above affair and Anderson went out to the village and brought in Rider aforesaid to the Station House, where he was searched on his person and also his travelling bag at his lodgings but could find no trace of the gold, and he was allowed to go. I met Fraser the complainer and told him what I had done but he was quite positive that Rider had the gold. About 10pm Anderson brought Rider again to the Station House, and was searched the second time and when he put off his boots Anderson shook them and a small parcel fell out of one, rolled up in a piece of shambo leather, containing gold which was weighed afterward and the weight of it is 1oz 8dwt and 3gn and about 14 shillings in money was found on him, which was taken possession of by Sergeant Anderson. I remained in the Station House till about 2am on 5th instant.

5th – Sunday –

At 2.30am left Station House and assisted Sergeant Anderson in conveying Robert Rider charged with theft by mail coach to Golspie and by a hired machine from there to Headquarters Dornoch. Saw Inspector Bridgeford and the C.C. at the Police office Dornoch, returned by the machine and by mail to Helmsdale at 10.30pm. Remained in Station House all night.

6th – Monday –

At 7.30am, left Helmsdale Police Station and patrolled the village of Helmsdale and returned by the bus to my station at 11am and visited the diggings along the Kildonan Burn, heard no complaints. At 5pm proceeded to Suisgill Village and patrolled about there. Returned by Baile an Or to my Station at 10pm.