



Executive Committee – Acting Chairman: Janet M Bishop; Deputy Chairman: Stephen Benson; Secretary: Ken Nisbet; Treasurer: Bruce B Bishop; Bulletin Editor: Ian Leith; Acting Publications: Bruce B Bishop; Member: Lorna Kinnaird

It's a Sair Fecht...right enough!!

What was to have been the 31st Annual SAFHS Conference has, as you all know, fallen victim to the current COVID-19 crisis

Along with the Council Meeting and the AGM, the Executive took the decision to cancel each of the above

The SAFHS Executive continue to communicate on a regular basis and as soon as practicable will issue new dates

This edition of the Bulletin is somewhat reduced as it seems pointless listing Diary Dates that will not take place.

Thanks to those that have contributed

Stay Safe

The 2021 Conference is however scheduled for April 2021 in Dundee and organised by Tay Valley FHS

See below



32nd Annual Scottish Association of Family History Societies SAFHS 2021 Conference

Dalhousie Building, Dundee
Saturday 24 April 2021

SAVE THE DATE SAFHS2021 Conference "Tay Valley's Inspirational Women"

On behalf of **Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS)** the 32nd annual conference is to be held in the City of Dundee hosted by **Tay Valley Family History Society (TVFHS)**.

The conference "Tay Valley's Inspirational Women" will be on Saturday 24th April 2021 in the Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee.

We are delighted to announce 3 of our confirmed keynote speakers - Dr Norman Watson, Sheena Wellington and Matthew Yitalo.

The conference will consist of four prominent speakers as well as SAFHS Members along with Trade Stalls providing resources, information and assistance.

TVFHS in association with Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau and University of Dundee are delighted to bring SAFHS members, Family History Societies, Industry and members of the public together to participate in this event.

You are welcome to circulate this announcement to anyone you feel may be interested.

Keep up to date with our conference announcements - [register your interest here](#).

Destination: Dundee, Scotland

The city of Dundee are delighted to be hosting SAFHS2021. Dundee is a small post-industrial city with a core population of 147,000. It sits at the heart of one of Scotland's most beautiful regions, with other population centres including St Andrews, Perth and Arbroath.

Dundee is a transformational city with the V&A Dundee representing the bold determination, resilience and creativity of those who live and work in the area. The collective efforts of Dundee's communities, private, public and third sector partners continues to regenerate and renew Scotland's sunniest city.

conference@tayvalleyfhs.org.uk

Contacts: Please contact via the SAFHS website www.safhs.org.uk

Acting Chairman: Janet M Bishop

Deputy Chairman: Stephen Benson

Secretary: Kenneth Nisbet

Treasurer: Bruce B Bishop

Publications: Bruce B Bishop

Bulletin Editor: Ian Leith

Webmaster: Janet M Bishop

The next SAFHS Council Meeting is SCHEDULED to take place in **October 2020**. Full details will follow. Please note that the **Council Meeting** is open to **designated SAFHS Council Representatives only**. An agenda will be circulated to the designated SAFHS Council reps prior to the meeting. If any rep has not received an agenda, seven days before the meeting, please contact the Chairman.

OTHER SAFHS NEWS

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meets quarterly. Edited minutes are sent to member societies.

Website

Items for the website should be submitted to Janet Bishop direct, including changes to your **website contact details** only.

Bulletin Editor

The Editor thanks those who have contributed and welcomes interesting items and PICTURES.

Contacts List

The Chairman maintains the official contacts list. If you have changes between council meetings, please send them to Janet by email.

National Committee on Carved Stones in Scotland

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this committee.

Visit Scotland Ancestral Tourism Group

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this group.

Editorial Board, Statistical Accounts of Scotland Online

Ian Leith represents SAFHS on this group

KEEPING GOING

Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society have been compiling a list of things to do while the current crisis is keeping us indoors. They have managed to get to Number 8. Why don't you continue the list?

1. Have you sent in your Pedigree? Yes – does it need updating? No - you haven't sent it in – this could be a good time to send it in.
2. Have you sent in your surname interests yet? Yes – do they need updating now? No? Then this is the time to enter them up online or to send in the form and let the Surname Interests Coordinator enter them into the database for you.
3. Have you started writing up your family history and turning it into a narrative account of the family history about people's lives rather than just an antiseptic collection of events and dates?
4. If you have started this task already how about sending the first episode off to Hazel to go in the next journal so we can all see how you are progressing? It won't be complete yet – none of our family histories are because there is always a further generation backwards we can research.
5. Have you a particular area of expertise you can write about that will help other family historians in the Society ? For example, can you translate French, German, Latin documents or possibly some of the more exotic languages and help other members researching countries that use those languages to trace their ancestors and understand the local documents?
6. Is your branch working on a project in progress that you could help to type up or perhaps check back against the original records?
7. Have you looked at your "Brick Walls" lately? Pick one or two and send details to our forum. Many of our members out there will be looking for things to do and may have advice on how your problem(s) can be solved.
8. Go back over your research and see if further information has now become available that may allow you to move forward. Findmypast, Ancestry, Familysearch, Lancashire BMD and Lancashire Online Parish Clerk are all continually updating their records so new information may now be available to answer old questions.

Society News

from around the Family History Societies

Aberdeen and NE Scotland FHS

The Aberdeen & NE Scotland Family History Society is now in the final stages of premises refurbishment. The back office at 164 King Street is being totally cleared of stock, files and equipment. Shelves will be the next to go then the painting and floor covering will start. The exercise has taken longer than expected and the volunteers who work there will be rehoused for the time being. One wonders if certain things will ever be seen again but what a grand chance for a clear out!

In February, Society launched a Facebook Group as a way for people with northeast Scotland roots to connect with one another. In less than a week, the group grew to over 1000 members from all over the world. People have been sharing their family histories, photos, questions and we have even had people find cousins.

As the group grows, the hope is that it will become an increasingly useful resource in bringing together like-minded researchers. The Society has been delighted with the response and the wonderful community that has been created within the group.

In addition to the Brisbane and Melbourne Groups (their formation was reported in the last SAFHS Bulletin with fuller reports in our Society's Journal for Feb. 2020) we now have a London-area group – london@anesfhs.org.uk - and also the possibility of one for Ontario, probably centred on the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) but possibly also planning to meet at points west of Toronto. Progress will be reported in the next Journal.

We are looking forward to the usual venues over the summer months, especially the SAFHS Conference at Musselburgh in April. If anyone can spare some time to help at the stall, please contact Jean Shirer <jean.shirer@anesfhs.org.uk. There is a certain sameness about location of most of the fairs and conferences during the year but what a wonderful way to meet local members. Join us if you can at the BA Agricultural Fair Lyne of Skene, Echt Show, Aboyne Games, York Racecourse, Bennachie Visitors' Centre and the Book Fairs at Ballater and Aberdeen.

Contact – Hon Secretary, Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS, 158-164 King St., Aberdeen AB2 45BD

E-mail - enquiries@anesfhs.org.uk (**Tel:** 01224 646323)

Website – anesfhs@org.uk

Anglo – Scottish FHS



Since our last report we have had some very interesting presentations. Chris Paton spoke about 'Down and out in Scotland', Carol Wells gave an extensive live introduction to using the resources available for search for ancestors in Ireland while Dr Alan Crosby spoke about the movement of people across the Solway between Dumfriesshire and Cumbria with particular reference to the Rickerby family.

Coming soon will be talks about 'The Great Tapestry of Scotland' by Sue Whitaker and the resources available at the Mitchell Library by Irene O'Brien. We will also have sessions devoted to member's heirlooms, members favourite sources of information and attempting to overcome member's brick walls.

We continue to receive contributions to our Scottish Marriage Index. You can access the Index at www.angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk.

Distribution of our newsletter continues to grow. This is not restricted to our members but available to anyone. Past editions can be viewed at <http://www.angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk/scotia/scotia.php> where you can also subscribe to receive future editions.

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month, starting at 2.00 pm., except August and December and non-members of the Society are always welcome. The help desk is open from 10.30am until 1.00pm. on our meeting dates.

Michael J Couper

3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library

St Peter's Square

Manchester

M2 5PD

Email: angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk

Website: www.angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk

ASGRA



It's a Sair Fecht, right enough. As joint host of the 2020 SAFHS Conference in Musselburgh, we were obviously disappointed that the event had to be cancelled, along with all others world-wide.

The ASGRA contribution was prepared by and was to be presented by Lorna Kinnaird, John McGee, Val Wilson and Alex Wood, who are all ASGRA Council Members. You can be sure their hard work will be recognised, and their lecture will form part of a future CPD event.

ASGRA membership remains at an all-time high, and the Assessment Panel was pleased recently to welcome Pauline McQuade as a full member. ASGRA is the only accrediting body for professional genealogists in Scotland, and we are actively welcoming applications from researchers from all backgrounds, with or without academic qualifications.

www.asgra.co.uk

Borders FHS



Over the winter months our society members have continued to be busy bees recording Criminal Arrests, Monumental Inscriptions as well as cataloguing various donations from our members. As you know sorting through albums of photographs and boxes of documents is a laborious task; one which frequently takes up an inordinate amount of a volunteer's time. However, they are a valuable addition to

our societies and provide members with a wealth of personal details, photographic evidence, information on the history of the built environment and geographical locations of an area population.

Hawick Reivers Festival

Some of our volunteers will be attending this popular event on Saturday 28th March at Hawick Heritage Hub, Kirkstile, TD9 0AE. I, for one, have a host of reiver surnames in my Border ancestry and look forward to wearing my Elliot tartan scarf on the day.

The full programme of events can be found at www.hawickreivers.com.

700th anniversary of the founding of Duns Castle In 1320 King Robert the Bruce granted a Charter of the lands of Dunse to his nephew Randolph, Earl of Moray. Immediately the construction of the castle began, although a settlement did exist before 1320.

This year's 700th anniversary will see a host of events taking place which may be of interest to some Berwickshire folk; for more details on the events to be planned or if you would like to be involved please visit www.dcc700.com.

To coincide with the Duns700 celebrations Borders FHS expect to have the transcriptions of the Preston Road Cemetery MIs ready for publication which hopefully will include; Militia list; Communion certificates; Kirk Session records and Police Custody records.

Book Gifts

The society have recently been fortunate enough to have been presented with two very interesting publications:

"Bridging the Tweed" by Jim Lyon, a retired civil engineer who specialized in bridge design and architecture, both here and worldwide. Today there are 68 bridges spanning the approx. 100-mile-long river. For every bridge there is detail of how and when it was constructed, those involved, personal background, the surrounding area and photographs.

Also : - "The Elliots: The Story of a Border Clan"; a copy of the updated and vastly expanded genealogical history from Lady Elliot of Stobs co-author with Sir Arthur Elliot. A godsend for any researcher.

Meeting Venue

St Peters Church Hall, Parsonage Road, Galashiels, TD1 3HS. Our monthly meetings are held on the last Sunday, begin at 2.30 pm and end with tea/coffee about 4.00. Any changes to speaker will be notified on our website.

Opening hours

As of 1st March our research rooms at Overhaugh Street, Galashiels, TD6 1DP are open between 10 am until 4 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays until 30th October. If you are coming from afar we can arrange an appointment on a day which would fit in with your travel itinerary.

Address: 52 Overhaugh Street, Galashiels, TD1 1DP

Website: www.bordersfhs.org.uk

Research – research@bordersfhs.org.uk

Enquiries - info@bordersfhs.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BordersFHS>

Twitter: @bordersfhs

Caithness FHS



At the Caithness FHS AGM one or two changes took place in the make-up of the Committee. We have a new Journal Editor – Jayden Alexander. Jayden will welcome contributions and can be contacted at alexanderjayden960@gmail.com. The 64th edition of our Journal, along with previous copies can be accessed at our website <https://caithnessfhs.org.uk>

Just prior to the current shut down we enjoyed a most interesting and informative talk by Valerie Amin, titled 'Caithness and the Crofters War: 1881 to 1886. Valerie recently graduated from the University of the Highlands and Islands with a BA (Hons) in Scottish

History. A native of Caithness, she is particularly interested in the land issues and politics of the 19th century Highlands. An excerpt from her dissertation can be found at https://historylinksdornoch.wordpress.com/2019/09/12/caithness-and-the-crofters-war-the-case-of-clyth-estate-part-2/?fbclid=IwAR339SCJUTN_CvMouGGq2ZIERG7xmg3VUTFup1nmVDXEU6oat3FdSqjnSRg

A regular contributor and member of CFHS, Alan McIvor, has been contributing some fascinating articles on the history of Thurso. The most recent looks at the houses in this old painting

Address: C/O Thurso Library, Davidson's Lane Thurso, KW14 7AF
Email: Secretary - nems623@btinternet.com
Website: <http://caithnessfhs.org.uk> **Facebook:**
<https://www.facebook.com/caithnessfamilyhistorysociety/>



East Ayrshire FHS

Meetings: Evening meetings, with speakers, are held at 7 pm on the second Thursday of the months September to May. The venue is now the Daniel Coffey Suite in the North West Kilmarnock Area Centre, Western Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 1NQ. Visitors are welcome.

On most other Thursdays we meet from 1.30 to 3.30 pm for workshops in the Take A Bow Opportunity Centre, Fraser Walk, Kilmarnock, KA3 7PH. Those attending pay £2 to help cover the hire of the room.

Talks: At the January meeting three of our members gave short talks on a wide range of topics. Our chairman spoke about a new book by **Margaret H. B. Sanderson** which has been published by the Scottish Record Society. The title is **Galston Kirk Session Register - Baptisms, Marriages, Poor's Accounts 1568-1595**. The transcript of the **Baptisms Register for 1568 to 1576** forms a significant part of the book and covers not only children living in Galston Parish but also a few from the neighbouring parishes of Loudoun, Riccarton and Mauchline. A digitised form of the register can be consulted in the Historical Search Room of the **National Records of Scotland**.

Another committee member gave a presentation about the origins of **Auchinleck Talbot Football Club**, a well-known name in Scottish Junior Football. They have won the Scottish Junior Cup twelve times and numerous trophies in the West of Scotland. Information about the history of the club can be found at <https://www.auchinlecktalbot.com/club-history/>. The evening was rounded off on a light note by our webmaster, whose presentation featured photographs of strange and amusing notices and signs.

The speaker in February was Alex Macdonald, Head Guide at **Dumfries House**, who gave a presentation on *Dumfries House and its wider development*. The unique contents of the stately home near Cumnock in East Ayrshire were saved from being split up and sold in 2007 by the intervention of HRH Prince Charles. Much restoration work has been carried out since then, not only to the rooms of the house but also to the gardens and various estate buildings. Photographs are available to view online at <https://dumfries-house.org.uk/about/explore-the-house> and detailed information about the various attractions can be found on other pages of the website.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to hosting the **2020 Joint Meeting** of the family history societies in Ayrshire, when Hugh Robertson of Re-enactment Scotland will give a talk and demonstration entitled *Living History*.

At the meeting in April Bob McMillan will speak on *Ayrshire at War*.

Events: EAFHS will be at the **SAFHS 2020 Conference and Family History Fair** in Musselburgh on Saturday 18th April. Do come and visit our stand. We do not yet have details about a **South Ayrshire Local History Fair** which is expected to be held in June in the Carnegie Library, Ayr.

News: The headquarters of **Ayrshire Archives** in Ayr and its access points in Irvine and at the Burns Monument Centre in Kilmarnock are now closed for a year. For further information see their website <http://www.ayrshirearchives.org.uk/>

It should be noted that the other services at the **Burns Monument Centre** in Kay Park, Kilmarnock remain open, namely the Reference Library, the Registrars Department and the pay-to-use ScotlandsPeople Centre outpost. As well as an extensive collection of books about local history and Robert Burns, the **Reference Library** has microfilms of Ayrshire Census Records from 1841 to 1901, Old Parish Records and some local newspapers, all of which are free to view.

Important Notice

*Ayrshire Archives will be **CLOSED** to visitors and enquiries from 1st March 2020 in order to prepare for and move Archives HQ to a new purpose built facility in Ayr. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and offer our sincere thanks for your patience and support. Ayrshire Archives will re-open in early 2021. Please check our website and social media platforms for regular updates. Our access points at the Burns Monument Centre, Kilmarnock and Townhouse, Irvine will also be closed.*

Publications: Details can be found on the Shop pages of the EAFHS website

EAFHS contact details:

By post: Secretary, East Ayrshire Family History Society, % Dick Institute, Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BU

Email: enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Website: www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/eafhs/

Lanarkshire FHS



Currently our membership numbers remain steady, we have a strong team of volunteers who continue to carry out the many functions required to keep the Research Centre and the society operating.

Our monthly Talks in the GLO Centre, Pollock Street, Motherwell ML1 1LP. All Talks start at 7:00pm.

Our team of "Graveyard Transcribers" continue the good work. Currently East Kilbride Cemetery is nearing completion and Bothwellpark Cemetery is being transcribed.

Our series of books on the Fallen in Lanarkshire Towns continues, "The Fallen of Newarthill in WW1 and WW2" will be available in March, "The Fallen of East Kilbride Parish" and "Lanarkshire Men who Fell in the Last 100 Days of WW1" will be completed during the summer. Larkhall Fallen continues to be transcribed and should be available later in the year.

The members of our 'Military Forum' continue the work recording all men who fell during WW1 and WW2 who had any Lanarkshire connection. The Project is funded by the "Heritage Lottery Fund".

All soldiers, seamen and airmen who had any connection to Lanarkshire i.e. born, worked, married etc,. The 'Master List' will assist anyone in identifying all locations where a soldier is recorded and remembered i.e. CWGC, SNWM, Civic Memorial, Church Plaque, Work Plaque, School Former Pupils Plaque and also where mentioned in Fallen books etc,. Currently almost 9,000 names have been checked and included, we have many more names we are currently checking and adding to the 'Master List'.

If any of your ancestors had a connection to Lanarkshire, please get in touch and we will make sure they are included and not forgotten.

Our 'Military Forum' E-mail is:- military-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk

General inquires: - secetary-lanakshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk

Research Centre address: -

Lanarkshire Family History Society,

122 -124 Merry Street, Motherwell. ML1 1NA

Open Monday Wednesday and Saturday 12:00 – 3:00pm

Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 – 9:00pm

Across the road from the Hop Lee Chinese Restaurant, enter from rear car park off Dalziel Street.

Lothians FHS



Since last Spring the Lothians FHS has visited local libraries and communities for 'drop-in' sessions to create an interest in family history research, to show how to start a family tree and also to encourage continuing this interest at our weekly workshops.

Our monthly talks are held in the Library of Lasswade High School Centre on the second Wednesday of each month. The March talk is "Researching Family History in the Banks Archives".

The Transcription of Midlothian Burials totalling 92,000 is now fully complete and available on CD's on www.GENfair.co.uk

We are now focussing our attention on the forthcoming SAFHS 2020 Conference on Saturday 18th April at the Brunton Halls, Musselburgh, which we are co-hosting with the Scottish Genealogy Society, ASGRA and Borders Family History Society.



For further information contact: Lothians FHS, the Library, Lasswade Centre, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA.

E-mail: lothiansfhs@hotmail.com

Website: www.lothiansfamilyhistorysociety.co.uk

Facebook: Lothians FHS

North Ayrshire FHS



After a jolly Christmas Social, where the speaker told of how several of her ancestors were shipwrecked, we began the new year with a talk given by our Chairperson, Fiona Williamson after as a result of having to change the Evening Workshop on the 'Digitisation of Records' at the last minute.

We have recently had a second batch of our records digitised after being awarded grant aid. In the next session, our members will be hearing how to access them by attending one of our workshops or taking the information away on a USB stick to study at home.

This was followed by a very well attended afternoon meeting, where a founder member gave an illustrated talk on 'Largs Then and Now', which appealed to newcomers to the area and those who were born and bred locally.

The village of Fairlie, near to Largs was one of the places on the West of Scotland, which was involved in the beginnings of sonar in WW2. John Riddell, another of our members, told us about the Fife Yacht Yard which was requisitioned by the M.O.D. Many of the scientists and technicians were relocated from Portsmouth to an area farther from the German bombing raids on the South Coast and where the conditions were suitable for the work. Some remained behind and married into local families.

North Ayrshire Council has awarded John a grant to further his research into this subject. He will be repeating his talk on the 8th May, in Fairlie Village Hall on the 75th commemoration of VE- Day. It will allow those who missed the earlier one to find out about 'The Establishment'

In March, Mrs. W. Sandiford, in a talk titled, 'Following the Drum', will be telling us about the hard life of wives and family who followed soldiers to war, where they often acted as nurses, cooks and laundresses

Later in March, some of our members will be attending the Joint Meeting with East Ayrshire as hosts. This will take the form of an 'Active Talk'-Living History' by Hugh Robertson. It promises to be an interesting evening in Kilmarnock.

Tom Barclay a welcome visitor, will be joining us again to speak on 'Robert the Bruce and his Ayrshire Connections'

A few days later, on the 16th, a group of members will be paying an afternoon visit to consult the archives at the Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

The 2019/20 session will end with the A.G.M. on the 12th May, at which a light supper will be held after the business.

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month from September to April, unless stated otherwise, in the Community Room of Largs Library at 7-30pm.

'**Find Your Ain Folk Workshops**' are also held in the Community Room of Largs Library on the last Thursday of the month, unless stated otherwise.

The dates for 2020 will be the 27th February and the 30th April from 2-30-4-30.

NAFHS will be represented at the 31st. Annual Conference on the 18th. April.

Contact Details for Secretary- ann.clydeview@outlook.com

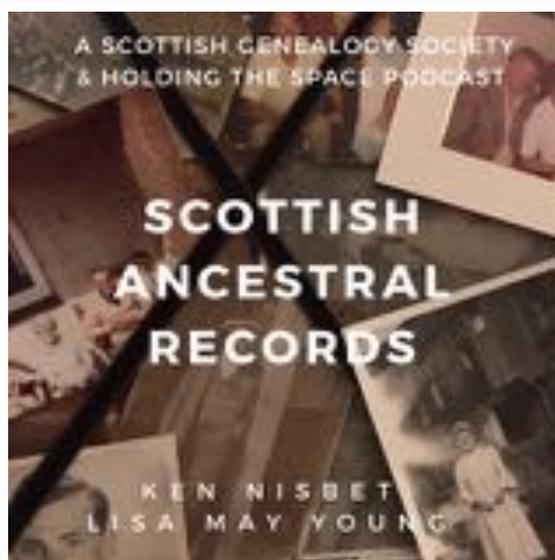
Largs Library, 26, Allanpark Street. Largs KA30 9AG

Website www.northayrshirefhs.org.uk e-mail nafhs@gmail.com

Scottish Genealogy Society



The Scottish Genealogy Society is the longest established family history society in Scotland and our library and research centre are located at 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL, where members and non-members are welcome. The library is staffed by enthusiastic volunteers who are happy to assist researchers and offer advice. UK annual membership is £20 and overseas membership is £25, which includes receipt of 4 journals a year. The library is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10.30-5.00, Wednesday 10.30-7.30 and Saturday 10.00-5.00. The library offers access to both Ancestry and Find My Past, as well as the myriad internet sites offering free access.



ScotlandsPeople website can also be accessed using the visitor's account. The society holds all the microfiche and microfilm records of the Old Parish Registers for the whole of Scotland, of which copies can be taken at a charge of 50p. One of the strengths of the society is its collection of Monumental Inscriptions which are continuously added to and can be viewed free of charge or purchased as required. The extensive reference library holds many rare and interesting volumes. Our website offers a wealth of information with numerous links which are helpful to family and local researchers. Monthly meetings are held between September and April (see website for details). The society also organises a series of courses on Saturday mornings in the library on a variety of topics. Please see the website for further details. The Society continues its publishing programme with recent publications including Inverness Poor Register 1857 – 1862; Prestonpans Kirkyard East Burials 1799 – 1872; Prestonpans Kirkyard West Burials 1799 – 1872; Laggan Poor Register 1865- 1918; Contin Poor Register 1865-1918.

Contact: Scottish Genealogy Society, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL Tel: 0131 220 3677 E-mail: enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com Website: www.scotsgenealogy.com

Shetland FHS



We are on the eve of moving our offices of over 25 years to a warm and inviting new premises. Many of our volunteers and members will miss the old place. It's been a great facility to build a society and membership. However, the building requires lots of work and we are needing dry accommodation.



New address: Shetland Family History Society, Shetland Amenity Trust Building, Garthspool, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0NY



We have had many new members join this year. Our staff have dealt with requests all over the world and visitor numbers are up from previous years. The BBC 'Shetland' programme could be part responsible for this welcome development.

Our Sharing Shetland Surnames weekend was popular again last June. To that end, we have been selected to give a presentation at Alexandra Palace, London, in April 2020 about this project. Do come and say hello if you are visiting the event.

We are launching an internet membership this year and await the progress of this. Keeping up with the changes of the web and being a vibrant society while not losing loyal membership is a challenge. Our membership in Shetland have spent their summer photographing all the monumental inscriptions and this is one area that we want to make available on-

line to our membership.

Interesting times ahead. We wish all societies the very best for 2020 .

West Lothian FHS

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month from September to June at 7.00 pm at the Lanthorn Centre, Kenilworth Rise, Dedridge, Livingston EH54 6JL. This is an opportunity for people to come along and meet us and learn what the Society is all about. With the help of our member volunteers we aim to provide beginner start up sessions as well as giving a helping hand to all members, old and new, to explore various websites to get the best out of them, further their knowledge and to help grow their family trees. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

We have office space within the Library at the Lanthorn Centre, where we are happy to welcome along new members.

Lanthorn days and times: Mondays 10.00 am till 3.00 pm and Thursdays 11.00 am till 4.00 pm.

As well as the Lanthorn, there will be a volunteer on duty at the Local History Library in Linlithgow offering the same service that we provide at the Lanthorn to society members and interested members of the public.

Linlithgow days and times: Wednesdays and Fridays between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm.

We continue to have our monthly visits to New Register House on the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month, 6.30 pm until 9.00 pm. These visits are very well attended by our members and more often than not our 40 places are taken up, though in recent months numbers have been down slightly. New members are welcome to attend and our steadfast members will assist anyone who needs help with their research.

The Society continues to grow from strength to strength and we are very fortunate that we continue to have an excellent turnout of members to all of our meetings and talks.

Our membership remains at £10 for single members, £15 for a couple from the same household and £12.00 for overseas membership.

We are currently transcribing local WW1 hospital admissions and history booklets of West Lothian parishes.

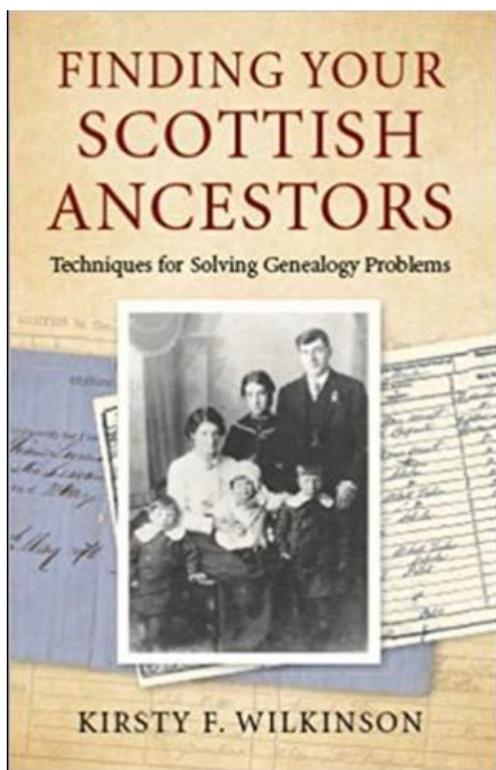
For further information contact: Secretary, West Lothian Family History Society, c/o 21 Willowpark, Fauldhouse, West Lothian EH47 9HN

Email: sec@wlfhs.org.uk

Membership Enquiries: member@wlfhs.org.uk

Resource Review

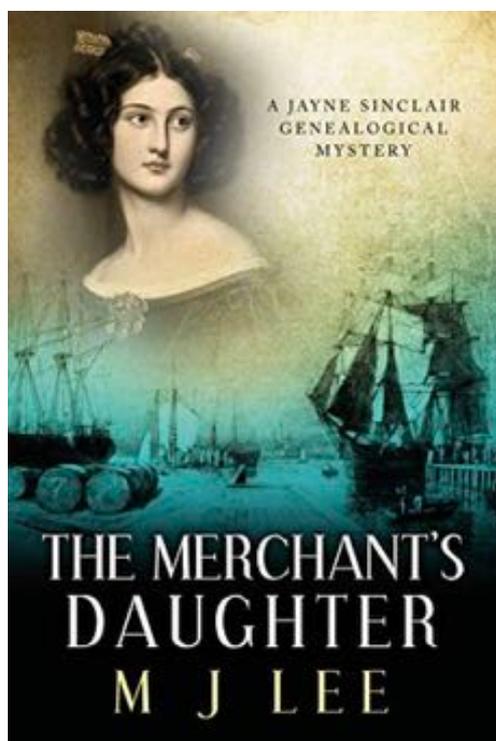
[new books, relevant websites etc.]



Finding Your Scottish Ancestors: Techniques for Solving Genealogy Problems by Kirsty Wilkinson

Kirsty F. Wilkinson is a professional genealogist, based in Edinburgh, Scotland. She holds an MSc in Genealogical, Palaeographical and Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and is an accredited member of the Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA). After successfully running her own family history business for over ten years, Kirsty joined the AncestryProGenealogists research team in 2017, where she specializes in Scottish research. She has a passion for solving complex family history problems and for helping others discover their own family stories. Kirsty's first book, 'Finding Your Scottish Ancestors: Techniques for Solving Genealogy Problems', was published in 2020.

This excellent book from one of our leading genealogists comes both as print and Kindle editions.



If you need a bit of light relief from the genealogical slog!

The Merchant's Daughter (Jayne Sinclair Genealogical Mysteries Book 7) by M J Lee

After a DNA test, Rachel Marlowe, an actress from an aristocratic family, learns she has an African ancestor. She has always been told her family had been in England since 1066, the time of William the Conqueror, and they have a family tree showing an unbroken line of male descendants.

Unable to discover the truth herself, she turns to Jayne Sinclair to research her past.

Which one of her forbears is Rachel's African ancestor? And, who is desperate to stop Jayne Sinclair uncovering the truth?

Jayne digs deep into the secrets of the family, buried in the slave trade and the great sugar estates of the Caribbean.

Can she discover the truth hidden in time?

The Naked Clansmen on Mull & Iona 1700 – 1860

Ian McPhee

Priced at GB£20.00. Available from Orca Book Services at troubadour.co.uk/matador

A vivid description of the 18th and 19th century reorganisation of society in the far west of Scotland. Through his own unique perspective of his Scottish ancestry Ian uses previously unpublished material to describe life in the crofting settlements on Mull and Iona, and the hardships faced by these communities.

With limited space for expansion of the crofts, and ever-increasing families, the failure of the crops led to the prospect of famine, starvation and greater poverty.

Government policy, including the preference for sheep rather than people, led to an upsurge in emigration, which in

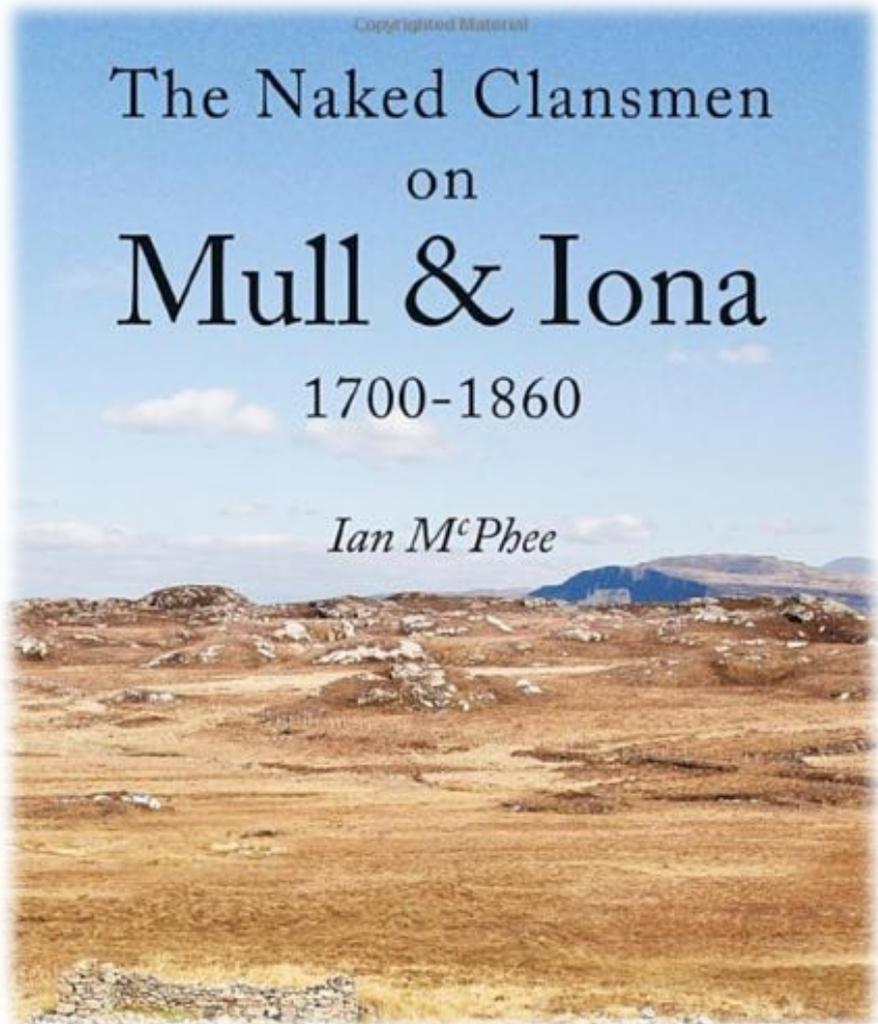
this area was encouraged and often facilitated by the Duke of Argyll.

This book provides explanations and details about aspects of Highland life which were often overlooked in similar publications, and numerous images and over 400 reference notes will provide the reader studying a similar ancestry with a useful guide to many sources for further research.

The publication of this book was co-incidental with the inclusion on the ScotlandsPeople website of the Poor Relief and Migration records of the HIES, which had been set up to relieve Highland destitution.

In addition to telling a very readable story of forced emigration from the west of Scotland, it is a must-have reference source and research guide for those studying this often quite contentious period in Scottish history.

Bruce B Bishop FSA Scot, ASGRA



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