



SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION of FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

BULLETIN

APRIL 2009

Executive Committee: Chairman: Bruce B Bishop; Deputy Chairman: Andrew Eadie; Secretary: Ken Nisbet; Treasurer: Vacant; Editor: Janet M Bishop; Publications Manager: Margaret Mackay

A Note from Retiring Chairman Neil W Murray

My involvement with SAFHS began in 1989, when I was asked by Highland Family History Society to be the SAFHS representative. I was appointed Deputy Chairman in March 1996, and held that post until March 2006, when I was elected Chairman. So my service totals some 20 years! As I have previously indicated, I do feel it is time to move on, and give someone else the opportunity to come forward with fresh ideas. Apart from SAFHS, I served as Chairman of Highland FHS from 1989-1997, and then from 1999-2002. I consider it an honour and pleasure to have served as an office-bearer of SAFHS, and I deeply appreciate the fellowship I have experienced with so many people over the years. I wish SAFHS every success in the future.

Neil

New Chairman of SAFHS Bruce B Bishop

At the AGM on 4 April 2009, Bruce Bishop was appointed Chairman. Bruce, the Aberdeen & North East of Scotland FHS Representative, has been a member of the Executive Committee for 2 years, having served as Deputy Chairman, and also more recently as Acting Treasurer. Andrew Eadie, Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS Representative, was co-opted on to the Executive Committee, as Deputy Chairman.

SAFHS CONTACTS

Chairman

Bruce B Bishop:

Deputy Chairman

Andrew Eadie

Secretary

Ken Nisbet

Treasurer, Acting

Bruce B Bishop

Editor

Janet M Bishop

Publications

Margaret Mackay

Webmaster

Peter Munro

The next meeting of SAFHS is on Saturday, 17 October 2009 in the Boardroom, Central Youth Hostel, Haddington Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh

AGM & April Council Meeting

The Annual General Meeting and the April Council Meeting were held on 4 April 2009, in the Boardroom, Central Youth Hostel, Haddington Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh. As usual, Minutes of the meeting have been sent to all member societies.

Contact Details: at the AGM, a form was handed out to all representatives present. Forms have also been sent to all member societies who did not have a representative at the meeting. Would all societies please complete the form, and return it to the Secretary. We hope to update contact information at each Council Meeting, and your co-operation will be appreciated.

New Member Society

Moray & Nairn Family History Society was admitted as a member of SAFHS at the AGM on 4 April 2009. MNFHS was founded earlier this year. Please see relevant section for contact details.

Future SAFHS Conferences

2010 West Lothian FHS
2011 Scottish Genealogy Society
2012 Tay Valley FHS
2013 Borders FHS

ScotlandsPeople Vouchers

The ScotlandsPeople Vouchers are available to all member societies at the discounted cost of £4.80 per 30 units (actual cost £6). Orders for the vouchers should be sent to Bruce B Bishop, Rivendell, Milnorduff, Elgin, Moray, IV30 8TJ. A cheque payable to SAFHS should accompany the order, and postage/insurance should be added: £5 for up to 500 vouchers; £10 for over 500. If you wish to order vouchers for collection at the next council meeting, in order to avoid the postage cost, this can be arranged, but the acting Treasurer should have your order and cheque at least 3 weeks before the meeting, in order

to ensure delivery in time.

The new Family History Centre

The ScotlandsPeople Centre opened to the public in January. Fees are as follows:

Daily entrance fee for full or part-day to search rooms - £10.00
Quarterly entrance fee to search rooms - £440.00
Annual entrance fee to search rooms - £1250.00
Evening visits, 8-20 persons - £200.00
Evening visits, 21-40 persons - £250.00
A4 black and white print - 50p

The Ruthven Café is also now open, which has replaced the lunch room that was previously available for researchers. The café is open from 9.30 – 3.30.

OTHER SAFHS NEWS

SAFHS Conference Guide

If you require a copy of the Guide, please be in touch with Margaret Mackay, Publications Manager.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on Sunday 1 March 2009, in Edinburgh, and minutes of the meeting have been sent to member societies.

Graveyard Working Group

The Graveyard Working Group has now been disbanded, having completed the Graveyard CD.

Project Working Group

The PWG is at present working on a new edition of *“The Parishes, Registers and Registrars of Scotland”*. Anyone wishing to become involved in the Project Working Group, please contact Bruce Bishop, the convenor.

ScotlandsPeople User Group

Ken Nisbet represents SAFHS on this group.

Executive Committee of Scotland’s Family History Project

Bruce Bishop represents SAFHS on this committee.

The Scottish Council on Archives

The Chairman represents SAFHS on this council.

News from Member Societies

Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS

Meetings of the Society and its branches have continued to be well-attended. The September talk at Aberdeen, given by Keith Mitchell, was entitled “The Suters of Marcassie and Forres” which was based extensively on a collection of old papers which he had purchased. The talk documented the family from about 1710 until the middle of the 19th century. The subject of

the October meeting was “Scottish Catholic Archives”, given by Andrew Nicoll, the Archivist in charge at Columba House. He described in detail the records held by the archives, and extended a warm welcome to researchers. The November meeting was a talk by Meredith Greiling on the “Aberdeen Maritime Museum and Archives”, another valuable resource for those researching their maritime ancestors.

The October meeting of the Glasgow Group saw a near-record audience for a talk by Fiona Watson, of Northern Health Service Archives, on North-East health records as a source for family history. In November Dr Marjory Harper gave a talk on “Emigrant Homecomings”, which considered the fact that of all the Scots who emigrated, about a third of them actually returned home, either because of a job-related return or due to domestic circumstances.

At the very well-attended October meeting of the Moray and Banff Branch, Bruce Bishop gave a talk on the history of the parish of Rothes, covering its history from earliest times up to the late 19th century. At the equally busy November meeting Helen Mitchell gave a talk on “The Farm Books of Old and New Noth”, which comprised three ledgers of handwritten farm accounts covering the period from 1802 to 1903, kept by her maternal ancestors. It was a fascinating description of farm life in the North East at that time. The February meeting was equally well-attended for a talk on the “History of the parish of Keith”.

The April SAFHS Conference and Family History Fair is now fully booked, both by delegates and stand-holders, and Kings College Conference Centre will be an impressive and welcoming venue for both delegates and public alike. The current membership of the Society stands at over 5000.

Latest Publications: Monumental Inscriptions Kinneff and Catterline, including St Philips Episcopal Churchyard, priced at £2.40. and Doune Kirkyard, Macduff, priced at £3.00. Postage extra for all publications.

For further information contact: *Hon Secretary, Aberdeen and NE Scotland FHS, 158/164 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5BD. Tel. 01224 646323; Fax 01224 639096.*

Website: www.anesfhs.ork.uk

Alloway & S Ayrshire FHS

Our society’s website continues to be very successful, supplying a steady flow of new members and orders for publications, particularly with the aid of the Paypal facility.

Now that our brand new Council library has been completed in Alloway, we have again been granted permission to use it as our mailing address, which is given below. We are most grateful to the library authorities and staff for this facility.

Three new booklets have been recently published by the Society, and are now available through the ‘Publications’ section of our website, or by post.

‘Straiton Churchyard Monumental Inscriptions and Old Parish Register Death Records’, ISBN 978-0-9553774-4-0, Price £5.00. This revision replaces the Killocoat booklet and

contains additional information of monuments within the Church and photographs of some gravestones.

'Kirkmichael Churchyard Monumental Inscriptions', ISBN 978-0-9553774-5-7, price £4.00. This revision replaces the Killicoat booklet and contains additional information of monuments within the Church and photographs of some gravestones.

'Cumulative Index and Deaths Overseas in Alloway and Southern Ayrshire FHS Monumental Inscriptions', ISBN 978-0-9553774-6-4, price £3.50. The Society has now published 13 booklets of monumental inscriptions in cemeteries in southern Ayrshire, and it was thought that a cumulative surname index of these would be of help to researchers, including those from overseas taking part in 'Homecoming Scotland'. Our librarian, Elizabeth McFadzean, had started to compile a list of deaths overseas mentioned in our booklets and an alphabetical list of these deaths included in the second half of the booklet.

Postage and packing for our booklets are at flat rates of UK £1.00 for the first booklet, plus 50p for each additional one, and Overseas Airmail £2.00 for the first booklet, plus £1.00 for each additional one.

We have had several excellent speakers recently. This being Homecoming Year and the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth, our speaker in January was Mr Alastair Hastings on the subject of Burns and his association with Kirkoswald and Maybole. The audience was enthralled to hear of Burns' spell in his mid-teens with relations in Kirkoswald, an area notorious for highly organised smuggling.

In February, Ann Cameron, librarian at the Scottish Film Archives in Glasgow, and her technician, Fiona, gave us a fascinating and thorough introduction to their website which has much to offer the family historian by way of useful pictorial illustration of Scotland in days gone by.

This year's joint meeting of the four Ayrshire Family History Societies took place in Kilmarnock on Thursday 12th March, hosted by East Ayrshire FHS. Our speaker, Mrs Barr from Carluke gave us a fascinating, well-illustrated presentation on General William Roy, engineer, antiquarian and map maker extraordinaire.

We were delighted to welcome to our March meeting Mrs Irene Hopkins, Treasurer of Troon FHS and a former depute head of Galston School. Her subject was 'On the Street where You Lived' and her exploration of the reasons behind the choice of a street name both intrigued and entertained her audience.

We are looking forward to hearing our April speaker, Mr Andrew Gray, one of our own members. His subject will be 'The 1935 Spithead Review', using film taken by his father.

In May we shall have a talk on 'Saving Photographs for Family History' by Mr. Andrew Donaldson.

We meet at Alloway Church Halls on the 3rd Thursday of the month from September to May and visitors and new members are always welcome.

For further information contact: *The Secretary, Alloway and Southern Ayrshire FHS, c/o Alloway Public Library, Doonholm*

Road, Alloway. KA7 4QQ

Website: www.asafhs.co.uk

Anglo-Scottish FHS

Our membership has seen a small increase, due mainly to an Open Day held at our Resource Centre in October in conjunction with our parent society. We were all very pleased to see such interest in Family History and welcome all who decided to join the Society.

Work continues with our projects and when the final CD is put together we will bear in mind the lesson learnt when issuing the Inventory of Scottish Graveyards as reported in the last Bulletin. We continue to be supplied with data for our Marriage Index, those marriages outside Scotland but with one Scots born partner. However the rate has dropped and we will be taking steps to remind those new to Family History both of the Index, the benefit of searching and the desire to contribute.

Visits to Family History Fairs to extol the benefit of joining a Society continues.

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month except August and December and non-members of the Society are welcome.

For further information contact

Michael J Couper

Website: www.mlfhs.org.uk/AngloScots

ASGRA

Three of our members have retired this year; Rosemary Bigwood, Maggi Dignall and Julie Poole. We have, however, admitted a new probationer, Joanna Lynch. As our name suggests, we are an association of professional genealogists and researchers in archives, and are keen to have applications for membership from researchers in specialist subjects and areas of study, as well as genealogy. Enquiries about membership of the Association should be addressed to:

Janet M Bishop, Hon Secretary, ASGRA

Website: www.asgra.co.uk

Borders FHS

The Society is still enjoying considerable growth in membership, about 80 new members since November, bringing the total number to over 800.

We've had a busy winter, and our archive at Old Gala House, Galashiels opened on 31st March. As before, we shall be open every Thursday between 10 am and 3.45 pm, and also for the same hours on Tuesdays and Fridays, but by appointment only.

While strictly speaking no booking is required for a Thursday visit, because of the limitation of the room this is nevertheless strongly advised and is necessary at all other times. Booking should be made via our website.

The archive continues to grow, and an up to date list of all volumes is contained on our website.

Our meetings have been well attended. In November, Mona Lewis told us about the waves of Scots emigration to Poland from the 14th to the 19th centuries, and the resultant impact on Scotland and Poland. In February, Kenneth Nichol gave an inspiring account of his research into the life of an uncle, Robert Gibson, a lawn-bowling champion.

In October we started a new project in partnership with Scottish Borders Archives and Local History Centre in Hawick to index digitised poor law records and transcribe core information, and to publish them for sale. Peter Munro gave a talk about these records and their history in March. These records offer fascinating glimpses into the lives of the poorer people in Borders communities from 1831-1935.

The records are from the 25 parishes of Bowden, Drumelzier, Eckford, Eddleston, Eyemouth, Kilbucho & Broughton & Glenholm, Hounam, Jedburgh, Kelso, Lilliesleaf, Linton, Makerstoun, Manor, Maxton, Morebattle, Oxnam, Peebles, Skirling, Smailholm, St Boswells, Stichill, Stobo, Traquair, Tweedsmuir, Yetholm.

The first volume for Jedburgh is expected to be published in June 2009.

Our website, www.bordersfhs.org.uk, is growing in usage, attracting new members and higher publications sales. There are searchable indexes to our MI volumes, magazine articles, queries, family trees, surname interests and forums. Work is still underway on adding requests for research, and publication sales to the website.

The facility to record surname interests is still very popular, and it's open for everyone to record their interests, not just members. The number of interests recorded encompasses more than 2050 distinct surnames, all over Scotland, and many in England and overseas too. With the addition of new burial places, our MIs now cover more than 3,800 distinct surnames in the Borders. The 550 family trees held now cover more than 4,100 distinct surnames. The forums have become more popular, too. We hope that other Societies will make these facilities known to their members.

We held a successful Open Day in September 2008 in Galashiels.

We are holding a history fair in Duns Parish Church Hall, Church Square, Duns on 18th April 2009 from 10am-4pm, so please come and see us there.

We're helping Galashiels Library to put on a Local History/Family History Event on 21st April 2009. There will be limited free access to the ScotlandsPeople website between 6.30pm and 9pm. There are 30 places available. To book a place please contact Galashiels Library on 01896 752512.

We will also be at Industrious Innerleithen on 23rd April 2009.

We have several new publications:

1. **Hounam and Linton Monumental Inscriptions** (CD - £7.50 plus postage). This is the 3rd edition, revised and expanded edition with an extra 85 gravestones, taking it to a total of 409 gravestones, and includes photographs of all the gravestones and the kirks, as well as militia lists for both Hounam and Linton.

2. **Melrose Weirhill and High Cross Monumental Inscriptions** (CD - £10.00 plus postage). 718 gravestones, hearth tax and militia list and war memorial inscriptions.

3. **Ettrick Monumental Inscriptions** (CD - £10.00 plus postage). 235 gravestones, includes photographs of all the gravestones and the kirk, war memorial inscriptions, as well as militia list and notes on James Hogg the 'Ettrick Shepherd', Rev Thomas Boston, Tibbie Shiels (Isabella Richardson). Researched by Selkirkshire Antiquarians Society.

4. **Kirkhope Monumental Inscriptions** (CD - £10.00 plus postage). 225 gravestones, includes photographs of all the gravestones and the kirk, war memorial inscriptions, as well as militia lists for Ettrick and Kirkhope, Kirkhope School register of admissions 1876-1880, Kirkhope teachers list 1873 onwards, Kirkhope School board and log book for 1873. This was researched by Selkirkshire Antiquarians Society.

Work on producing MIs for Bunkle & Preston, Cranshaws, Galashiels-Ladhope, Innerleithen and Stow is in progress.

The remainder of our programme for 2008-2009 is below:

26th Apr 2009 AGM and "Pagodas, Platinum and Penicillin"
Isobel Gordon

We warmly invite you to attend our Society meetings whether you are a member or not. There is no admission charge.

Meetings are held in the Corn Exchange & Ormiston Institute, Market Square, Melrose, TD6 9PN. Speakers at Society meetings occasionally need to be changed at the last minute, due to circumstances beyond our control. Where time permits, changes will be shown on our website What's On page.

For further information contact: Fred Kennington

Website: www.bordersfhs.org.uk

Dumfries & Galloway FHS

Our Research Centre has been quite busy over the winter months and, like everyone else, we are hoping that the Homecoming Year will bring in even more visitors than usual.

Our 2009 syllabus started off with a visit to the Annandale Observer newspaper, showing every stage of production to the final printing and including a look at much of the archival material held there since the 1850s.

New Publications: OPR burials for Dumfries, Part I, 1617 - 1679; Part II, 1680 - 1709 (with Part III, 1710 - 1739 and Part IV, 1740 - 1789 following shortly); OPR Burials for Langholm; 1854 BDMs from the Dumfries Standard; MIs for Middlebie, Minnigaff, Dalton, Tinwald and Trailflat and

Dryfesdale, Kirkconnell in Kirkpatrick-Fleming parish. Annandale People in Carlisle Newspapers (BDMs 1812-1858). Border Annals – BDMs with Scottish links collected from various parish registers in north-west England –mostly 18C & 19C but some earlier and 20thC entries. Coming shortly 1801, 1811, 1821 censuses for Annan.

We are now deeply involved in preparations for our forthcoming Homecoming Family History Fair to be held on 27th June 2009 in Dumfries Academy. We have three speakers: Prof Ted Cowan and Dr Marjorie Harper on the theme of the Lowland Clearances and Elizabeth Carmichael on graveyards. Forty local schools will be showing off their Homecoming projects on their own communities.

For further information contact: *The Hon Secretary, Dumfries & Galloway FHS, 9 Glasgow Street, Dumfries DG2 9AF.*

Website: www.dgfhs.org.uk

East Ayrshire FHS

The Society meets at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of the months, September to May in the Gateway Centre, Foregate Square, Kilmarnock. Visitors are welcome. Workshops are held in The Cabin, Witch Road, Kilmarnock from 1.30pm on most other Thursday afternoons throughout the year.

In March, East Ayrshire FHS hosted the annual joint meeting of the four family history societies in Ayrshire. The speaker was Mrs J Barr from Carlisle Historical Society, who gave a most interesting presentation about the 18th century mapmaker General Roy, who came from Carlisle.

A significant Ayrshire event for Year of the Homecoming is that The Burns Monument Centre in Kay Park, Kilmarnock is now open. The centre is open from 9.15am to 4.45pm Mondays to Thursdays and from 9.15am to 3.45pm on Fridays. East Ayrshire Council has set up a website at www.burnsmonumentcentre.com

Among the facilities are a Research Room, which houses books about Robert Burns, local history and family history, and makes available to the general public many books which previously were not easy to access. Microfilms of the Ayrshire OPRs and Censuses (plus the 1861 census for Lanarkshire), some Poor Relief records and local newspapers, including the Kilmarnock Standard and Ayr Advertiser are in the adjoining PC room. Other facilities are not yet fully operational. Some archival records specific to East Ayrshire have been transferred to the new centre. Arrangements for viewing these are still being worked out but it is likely that an archivist from Ayrshire Archives (which unfortunately remains 'homeless') will be present on Wednesdays. Access to digital images of GROS records is temporarily only available through the ScotlandsPeople website, by purchasing credits. It is hoped that by June 2009 the computers in the PC Room will be directly linked to the system available in the ScotlandsPeople Centre. It should then be possible to book the use of one of twelve computer stations through a Registrar at the Burns Monument Centre and pay for a day's access to the digital images.

Publications: The Society has produced a series of e-books of local histories and directories. Information on most titles is available on the website. A full list of publications is available on request.

For further information contact: *Secretary, East Ayrshire FHS, c/o Dick Institute, Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BU*

Website: www.eastayrshirefhs.org.uk

Fife FHS

Our programme this year started in September with a talk on "Fisher Lassies" by Mrs Sherrard and Cook, which included songs, poems and history woven around the story of the "Herring Girls" of the East Coast.

In October a talk on "The Treasures of Fife" by Mrs Harley from the Fife Folk Museum in Ceres illustrated items in the National Museum of Scotland with a Fife connection.

Gavin Grant of Fife Museum Services gave us a talk on the Kirkcaldy linoleum industry in November, with illustrations of items and photographs in the Kirkcaldy Library and Museum collections.

After the winter break, we commenced again in February with a talk on "Gravestones" by the well-known traveller and author, Hamish Brown. A great collection of slides of amusing and peculiar gravestones from all over Scotland.

This was followed in March by Dr Norman Reid, Curator of Special Collections at the University of St Andrews, with a talk on "Fife Families Abroad", well illustrated by documents from the University collection of manuscripts and letters.

In April we will be hearing Dr Paula Martin speak on the "Salt Pans of Fife", the story of a once flourishing and extinct industry.

An outing is planned for May and our year closes with the AGM and Social evening in June.

We attended the Tay Valley FHS event in Dundee last Autumn and will be present at the SAFHS Conference in Aberdeen and at the Fife Family History Fair in October 2009. As usual we have contributed to the costs of this event.

We will be celebrating our 20th anniversary in May this year and are planning to mark this by having our early Journals digitised and made available on a CD, allowing users to search the complete series.

Apart from the three Journals we have issued, Publications have been:- No.37 and 38 "Monumental Notes" from Beveridge and Montieth, No. 39 "Elie Churchyard Monumental Inscriptions" and No. 40, "Fife Poor Law Cases" from the Poor Law Magazine.

Website: www.fifefhs.org

Genealogical Society of Utah

The GSU continues working towards preparing digital images of the records in its vast 2.8+ million roll microfilm collection. Digital conversion is being undertaken with the most popular records being converted first. Running in tandem with the film conversion initiative, is the move away from analogue filming to digital imaging in archives and other family history record repositories. All the current filming projects in the British Isles are being undertaken using digital capture technologies.

When permission has been granted by record owners and custodians, the GSU desires to deliver digital images from its collection of family history records via the Internet. This initiative is going forward at pace. Users of the GSU's FamilySearch Internet service at www.familysearch.org can start using records which are already available in digital format. This is done by going to www.familysearch.org then run the mouse pointer over the "Search Records" tab and select "Record Search pilot" from the drop-down list. Upon doing this a second window opens. By clicking on a region of the world e.g. Europe, one can see all of the records which have been made available in digital format thus far and commence searching them.

Everyone can help increase the pace the GSU makes digitized records available on line. This is done by helping us create indexes to the digitized records. Creation of such indexes is done on-line and is very straightforward. Anyone can register to help by going to www.familysearch.org then click on the "Index Records" tab. A new window will open. By clicking the "Volunteer" button one can register to help. Once registered, volunteers are invited to download and install a small piece of software onto their computer. From a list, volunteer indexers may choose the records they wish to work on. Indexing is done in a split screen environment, with the digital image of the record showing in the upper half of the screen and the fields to be entered in the lower.

If everyone took but a few minutes when available to index, then the GSU will be able to make digital images available on-line for all to use more rapidly.

Many family history researchers are unaware of the vast series of digitized books available on-line and without charge, from the collection of Brigham Young University. Simply go to www.familysearch.org and from the "Search Records" tab select "Historical Books" from the drop-down menu. A second window will open allowing one to search the Family History Archives of the Harold B. Lee Library at BYU. There are thousands of published family histories available and other books to search.

Finally, anyone can go to the GSU's FamilySearch Labs website (<http://www.familysearchlabs.org>) to learn what projects are currently in development by the Society. Here one can play around with many new products which are nearing launch.

Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS

There continues to be an interesting range of talks on Monday evenings at 7.30 pm and, following the Society's AGM in April, there will be talks in May and June. On 18th May, Campbell Drysdale will be talking on the Scottish Mining Archives. The speaker for the meeting on 15th June has still to be announced, and this meeting will be at St Peter's Hall, Chancellor Street, Partick, instead of the Boyd Orr Building, Glasgow University.

The Membership figures at the end of 2008 stood at 2146 and the Society is pleased that this is an increase from the previous year. Overseas members account for 12% of the Society's membership. The Society will be participating again in Glasgow's West End Festival in June and Doors Open Days in September. The Society is fortunate in having a loyal band of volunteers who man the research centre on these occasions and for the normal opening times.

The Society is involved in a number of projects.

National Burial Index: this is now complete. Ramshorn is now published on CD and the Dumbarton entries are currently being checked.

Glasgow Cathedral Burial Ground project: due to bad weather in 2008, it was not possible to get dry enough conditions on site for recording purposes. We hope 2009 will be better. Over two thirds of the ground has been surveyed.

The Southern Necropolis project continues to make progress. Volume 16 has been completed and this covers up to 1890. The first stage is transcription of the volumes before being entered on computer database.

The Society is helping East Dunbartonshire Archives in conservation of Poor Law material and also helping Kingston University with the transcription of the Glasgow Sick Children's Hospital registers (1833-1903). This latter project is funded by the Wellcome Trust and the finished database will be made freely available via a dedicated public website.

The Library in the Research Centre has continued to expand its collection of Statistical Accounts and MIs for Scotland. It has also acquired MIs for Ireland and some small and obscure cemeteries in India from Karishan Archives.

Our Research Centre in Partick is now open on the second Saturday of the month from 10am until noon. This is in addition to the normal opening times of 2pm to 4.30pm on Tuesdays, 10am to 8.30pm on Thursdays and 2pm to 4.30pm on Saturdays. It is also open on the second Saturday of each month 10am to 12 noon.

For further information contact:

G&WSFHS, Unit 13, 32 Mansfield Street, Glasgow G11 5QP
Tel: 0141-339 8303
Website: www.gwsfhs.org.uk

Guild of One-Name Studies

The printed Guild Register of One-Name Studies 2009 is now available, and I will have 2 copies with me at the SAFHS

Conference. The format of the Register has been changed and so it is easier to find the address of a person who is studying a particular name.

The latest issue of our Journal (April-June 2009) has an article by Iain Kennedy on "A One-Name Study from the Scottish Gàidhealtachd", in which he explores some of the challenges he has encountered whilst studying early references to the Kennedy surname in the era of patronymics and aliases. The front page of the Journal is a colour picture of the Free Church at Crossbost, Lochs parish, Lewis. In the first Journal of the year, Alan Lapworth found that Lapper was an alias for his name. I thought that I had problems with variations in spelling of my surname, and have not encountered any aliases, but that is nothing compared with the Kennedy study.

Another article in the first Journal of the year is about the development of an on-line course for One-Name Studies in conjunction with Pharos Tutors - www.pharostutors.com The Guild Committee are doing this to meet its charity objective of increasing facilities available to members, and to advance the education of the public in One-Name Studies. Howard Mathieson has used Google Earth and Map My Ancestors to map over 900 distinct addresses in his study.

Annual subscriptions are going up in November from £12 to £15 per year, which is the first increase in 12 years. If I were willing not to have a printed Register, then the increase would be £1 less. I like a printed Register, and it is appreciated at the SAFHS conference. Before this SAFHS Bulletin has been printed, the Guild will have held its AGM, but if any of the officers change, then their email addresses will be redirected to the new person (note I have used my rep-safhs address).

For further information contact: *Secretary, Kirsty Gray, Guild of One-Name Studies, Box G, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA*

Website: www.one-name.org

Highland FHS

Since we changed the venue for our monthly meetings a couple of years ago to the Netley Centre, which is attached to the Highland Hospice, attendances have grown to the extent that, due to fire precautions, some members (including this writer) have been turned away from recent meetings, to prevent overcrowding. This is surely a novel situation for any FHS to find itself in, and we are thus actively seeking suitable alternative accommodation for next session as a result. The present accommodation is welcoming, comfortable, centrally located and fairly accessible, and so our task isn't made easier! We have enjoyed a series of good speakers this year, and that too has presumably encouraged members to attend the meetings. Our season started with a social evening, coupled with a presentation by the Council's Archivist on the progress of the Highland Council Archive Centre, presently under construction in Inverness, and we are looking forward to the opening of this facility in the Autumn. The centre will house Highland Council's Archive Service, the Inverness Registration Service, and the Council's Genealogy Service, as well as including office and library space for the Society, and we anticipate a further growth in interest in family history research

as a result. Membership numbers remain steady this year, and we hope that the better weather expected soon will allow us to progress the completion of some more MIs for publication.

For further information contact: *Angus Bethune, Secretary, Highland FHS*

Website: www.highlandfhs.org.uk.

Lanarkshire Family History Society

Since our last report in October, LFHS has had a varied programme of speakers at our monthly meetings, including Bruce Durie "Researching Houses", Helen Bell, Archivist for South Lanarkshire Council, David Bryce "Scottish Covenanters" and John Young "Stonehouse Kirkyard". Numbers attending our monthly meetings in the GLO Centre Motherwell are slightly up - we now have between 70-85 members attending. Membership numbers remain steady. We have also supplied speakers to various local Societies, Clubs and Groups, giving talks on family history research.

Our "Irish Interests" group got off to a healthy start with 16 members meeting to discuss their Irish problems and their research requirements. The "Graveyard Group" has also started transcribing Kirkyards. We are sure that both groups will add value to the society and encourage new members. The "Military Matters" group and the "Parish Project" are going to take a little longer to get established.



Since the last Council Meeting, we have secured new premises through North Lanarkshire Council for our Resource Centre. After redecorating, we completed the move on 27th February. We are noticing that more members are coming along to the new premises, because of easier access. The building was originally built in the 1880s as the Head Teacher's House for Dalziel Public School. Later it was to become the Janitor's House, before lying empty for a short period. We have one large room as the Research Centre, a smaller room for the office, as well as printing and publications storage. We also have a kitchen, toilet and two storage areas and, most importantly, we have a car park next to the Resource Centre. Currently we are arranging Broadband which will give members access to the internet. We invite members of all

Family History Societies to come and visit our new centre if they are passing through Motherwell. We currently open on Wednesday and Saturdays, 12:00–15:00pm and Thursdays, 17:00–21:00pm. We are closed the 2nd Thursday each month. The Resource Centre address is 47 Crosshill Street, Motherwell, ML1 1RU.

Would all society Secretaries please note that, as we have a roller shutter over the door and the Centre is not open every day, we are unable to receive deliveries.

Please address all correspondence and deliveries to: Lanarkshire Family History Society, c/o Motherwell Heritage Centre, Local History Room, High Road, Motherwell. ML1 3HU.

Website: www.lanarkshirefhs.org.uk

Lothians FHS

The Spring session of meetings started with a talk on “The History of Papermaking”, followed by “A Visit to Gallipoli” and “The Fortification of Leith”. Future talks include “Visiting WWI Battlefields” and “Nursing in WWI”. Visitors are always welcome. Talks take place at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month, September to November, and January to May.

Volunteers are currently transcribing OPR deaths for Midlothian parishes.

Meetings take place each Wednesday evening from 7 – 9 pm in the library of Lasswade High School.

For further information contact:
Lothians FHS, Lasswade High School Centre, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA

Website: www.lothiansfhs.org.uk

Moray Burial Ground Research Group

Over the past year the group has continued to conduct monumental inscription recording and buried tombstone research at various sites throughout Moray and Banffshire. The combined MI and buried tombstone book for Dundurcas and Macallan, and the MI book for Chapelton and Tombae in the Braes of Glenlivet are now in print, and the massive task of recording the Monumental Inscriptions at Elgin Cathedral has been completed and the book will be available by the time of the SAFHS Conference and Family History Fair in Aberdeen in April.

Work has now commenced at the very damp Historic Scotland site at Duffus Old Church (St Peter’s), where both MI’s and Buried Stones are being recorded. Limited consents have been granted by Historic Scotland for work at Kinloss Abbey, where the group will work in conjunction with the Kinloss Abbey Trust. Only the visible MI’s will initially be recorded at this site, but negotiations with HS are ongoing. The MI’s at Forres (Clunyhill) are now transcribed, and checking is in progress.

The Website gives up to the minute details of all of the research in progress, and a full publications list. The Ancestor Index on the website now contains over 25,000 names.

Latest Publications: Monumental Inscriptions for Dundurcas and Macallan, (including buried stones), price £6.00, and Monumental Inscriptions for the Catholic Churchyards of Chapelton and Tombae in the Braes of Glenlivet, price £4.50. Postage is extra for all publications.

For further information contact: *Hon Secretary, Moray Burial Ground Research Group, Rivendell, Miltonduff, Elgin, IV30 8TJ. Tel 01343 549509*

Website: www.mbgrg.org

Moray & Nairn FHS

The inaugural meeting of the Moray & Nairn Family History Society took place on 21 February 2009, when a committee was formed, and the first subscriptions paid.

A series of publication projects were discussed, including monumental inscriptions for the parishes of Nairnshire, and it is hoped that the first society publications will be available in the coming months. The society plans to have a members’ newsletter 3 times per year, and articles are in preparation for the first one. Membership of MNFHS will be £12, individual, or £15, family.

Our first open meeting will be held on 27 June at Forres Community Centre, High Street, Forres from 2-4pm - all are welcome. The speaker will be Ken Nisbet, on Newspapers in Family History Research.

The MNFHS will be involved in a Homecoming Fair for family history research, to be held at the Town Hall, Elgin, on 10 October 2009. Entry is free, and there will be talks, workshops, stalls and refreshments.

We are a new society, but hope, in the coming months and years, to contribute more to the ever-growing genealogical database - watch this space!

For further information contact: *The Secretary, Moray & Nairn FHS, Rivendell, Miltonduff, Elgin, IV30 8TJ. Tel: 01343 549509*

Scotslot

The Scotslot AGM was held at our first meeting of the year, followed by a discussion on Scottish dialects and ‘languages’ including some excellent singing and recitations by members! In March, Alan Stewart spoke about Irish Research, giving comprehensive coverage both traditional and on-line.

Scotslot members attended the “Who Do You Think You Are?” Exhibition at Olympia, helping out on the SGS stand, trying to help visitors with their family history problems, and broadening their knowledge as well. We also gained several new members.

Our programme for the remainder of the year includes a talk on ‘Some thoughts on Scottish Clearances’, by Iain Stewart; Richard McGregor talking about “Tracking the life of a shoemaker in estate papers”; and Gregory Lauder-Frost will tell us about using Land Records.

Guests are welcome at our meetings in Harpenden and should contact Stuart Laing or write to 16 Bloomfield Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 4DB.

For further information contact: *Scotslot, 16 Bloomfield Road, Harpenden, Herts*

Shetland FHS

There has been a steady stream of visitors joining our local members during the winter months to continue with their Shetland research, though our premises were closed slightly longer than usual over the Christmas period due to the start of a refurbishment programme. The first stage of this has now been completed and it is hoped to have the second phase finished before the summer season starts. We are getting ready for our *Hamefarin 2010* which will run over the midsummer weeks in June – more information on the website : www.shetlandhamefarin.com

Usual opening times for the premises still apply – every weekday afternoon, 2-4p.m., Monday & Thursday evenings, 7-9p.m. and extra summer openings on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings, 10-12 noon from June to September. Details of opening times, publications and events are available on the Society's website www.shetland-fhs.org.uk

For further information contact:
The Secretary,

Tay Valley FHS

No sooner than we had finished the 2008 Roots Festival, we got involved with Angus Council to help organise the forthcoming 2009 Festival. Below is a brief outline of the events:

Tay Roots 2009

The 2nd Angus & Dundee Roots Festival in 2009 will take place between 26 September and 4 October, with events in the City of Dundee and around the county of Angus. The Festival will provide a focus for everyone wanting to find out more about their roots in the area - locals and family history researchers from further afield - with the help of local registrars, archivists, genealogists, and historians.

The Roots Festival is for everyone in Angus and Dundee, but delegates who sign up for the Festival packages will be offered special access to personal guidance from the experts, with visits to research resources, and sites of importance to them. Using www.tayroots.com, have a look at video film of what delegates got up to at the Roots Festival 2008.

The challenge was to provide an authentic experience for a group of people from all over the world – to help them make a real connection with the land of their forebears. It worked for 2008 delegate Robin Hallam, from Vancouver Island, who told Tayroots:

“Half of the 4300 ancestors I've traced in 32 years of researching my family history are from Dundee, Angus and

Fife, so I am very, very proud of my Tay Valley roots.

Last year, I travelled from my home in Vancouver Island to the east coast of Scotland, to take part in the Angus and Dundee Roots Festival, a week of events specially designed to assist people from all over the world to trace their Angus and Dundee ancestors”.

During his Festival visit, Mr Hallam travelled around the districts he had only read about in ancient documents, and stood in front of the gravestones of his ancestors at Glamis. He saw the places where they lived and worked, and touched the walls and stones they lived among. It was a meaningful experience for him, and he said:

“As my mother Christina Robb was from the Angus town of Arbroath, and all her ancestors were from within 60 miles of Arbroath, I thought it would be worthwhile to attend the Roots Festival, especially as it included a visit to both Arbroath and to the village of Glamis, where many of my ancestors had lived...”

As I walked around the village of Glamis and went down to Fergus' Well to sip the clear, cool water, so many of my grandparents' stories came back to me. Spending time in the village of my ancestors was so special. I felt as though I'd come home”.

(Writer Wendy Glass spoke to Robin Hallam for Tayroots)

A flexible mix of activities, which can include accommodation and transport or be based on self-drive hire only, is available for delegates in 2009, allowing the opportunity to stay with friends or relatives if preferred - tell our package operator what you want to do, and a personally tailored itinerary can be created.

Options for Roots Festival delegates can include in 2009, according to your own interests:

Pre-visit – professional research focused on your personal family history, so that you can make the best of your time, and fill in those difficult gaps in knowledge;

Saturday 26 Sept - arrival and evening Civic Reception & Welcome in Angus;

Sunday 27 Sept - optional church attendance/tours of local churches; lunch and a familiarisation tour of Angus and Dundee, with visits to The Verdant Works, Dundee, Aberlemno Carved Pictish Stones, Arbroath Abbey. Evening - optional: Roots Sessions - traditional music in Kirriemuir;

Monday 28 Sept – a day of genealogy workshops and expert guidance from local archivists and family history researchers, with lunch and guidance on using new online burial records. Evening: An expert lecture by local historian Dr Andrew Jeffrey

Evening – optional: Roots Sessions - traditional music in Arbroath at the Webster Theatre;

Tuesday 29 Sept - Guided tours of ancient graveyards in Dundee and Angus, Upstairs, Downstairs - a guided tour of Glamis Castle (childhood home of her Majesty the Queen Mother) and of the Angus Folk Museum, a National Trust for Scotland property.

Evening: a Civic Welcome from Dundee Council and Literary Celebration of Robert Burns in association with the University of Dundee at Dundee Rep.

Evening – optional: Roots Sessions - traditional music in

Arbroath at the Webster Theatre;

Wednesday 30 Sept - free time for exploring and optional genealogical research at Tay Valley Family History Society, or tours of historic ships RSS Discovery & Frigate Unicorn.

Evening: a Bothy Ballad Concert at the superbly refurbished Webster Memorial Theatre in Arbroath. Bothy Ballads are the authentic music of the land, sung on farms and crofts when our great-grandparents made their own entertainment, telling stories of their lives in song;

Thursday 1 October - a day at Angus Archives near Forfar, with lunch and a tour of Restenneth Priory, or time with Tay Valley Family History Society for further Dundee research. Evening: an Archive Film Night in Dundee - rare clips of archive footage from national and local sources. Last year, our PR person spotted her granny in her swimming costume at Arbroath!

Friday 2 October - a Local History and Genealogy Fair Webster Memorial Theatre in Arbroath, tour of Arbroath, Auchmithie & St Vigeans.

Evening - Farewell Ceilidh and Burns Supper in the delightful traditional setting of Duntrune House, with a piper, haggis, music, and a few lively reels - depending on how much haggis is consumed!

Evening - optional: Roots Sessions - traditional music around Angus - venue TBC

The Roots Festival Fringe is still growing daily, and more information will appear online on a regular basis. Fringe Events currently intimated include lunchtime talks, daily teatime lectures at a major bookstore, a variety of fascinating exhibitions, and traditional music and storytelling sessions at the Festival Fringe hub and in friendly local pubs.

Fest'n'Furious, Dundee's Festival of Traditional Music, takes up where the Roots Festival leaves off - from Friday 2 - Sunday 4 October - with an energising programme of lively concerts, workshops and sessions. See more as it becomes available at www.festnfurious.co.uk

Tay Valley fringe talks at Waterstones, Commercial Street, Dundee will be as follows:

Monday 28th September, Ian Macintosh - The Dundee Whaling Industry, Tuesday 29th Jack Blair - Families of Angus, Wednesday 30th Gordon Anderson - Dundee looking up (with possible book launch), Thursday 1st October Ian Flett - Using the Dundee City Archives and finally Friday 2nd October John Irvine - The McLaren Family of Architects and their influence on Dundee.

Photographing the City

We are working in conjunction with Dundee Civil Trust in identifying city-wide photographs (approximately 40,000), mainly the property of Dundee City Council. A lottery grant was granted for the scanning of the negatives and teams of "identifiers" from both societies meet regularly and this will continue until the end of the year.

Deceased Online

Angus Council have had their burial records put online on a pay-per-view site called "Deceased Online". They will be in attendance on the Tay Valley table at the SAFHS conference in Aberdeen and will also be coming to demonstrate to our

members at one of our winter talks.

Graveyard CD's

Tay Valley continue to produce Photographic and Monumental Inscription CDs. 3 recently issued CD's are: Inverkeillor; Kinettles; Dundee Minor Graveyards Part 1. Others planned during 2009.

Research Centre

Membership continues to go from strength to strength, and day visitors have risen dramatically, probably due to the 2008 Roots Festival, local advertising, and interest from various TV series on Genealogy.

Computing is playing an ever increasing and important role in everyday research as more and more archives and indices are put on line.

MSP Visit

In connection with Homecoming 2009, we had a visit on the 14th November by two of our local MSPs, Shona Robison and Joe Fitzpatrick. Shona Robison said: "I enjoyed my visit to the Tay Valley Family History Society as I know that it is a valuable resource for all those, both local and around the globe who wish to rediscover their family ties with Dundee and Tayside. Scotland has a rich heritage shared by all those of Scottish descent who live out with Scotland and the Scottish Government's initiative aims to motivate them and all those who love Scotland, to come 'home' to celebrate the uniqueness of Scotland". Dundee West MSP Joe FitzPatrick said: "We are keen to promote Scotland across the globe and Shona and I have written a joint letter to the civic heads of all Dundee's namesake communities around the world inviting them to join in the Homecoming 2009 year of celebration. As well as celebrating Scottish culture and the 'One Scotland, Many Cultures' campaign, we aim to promote a national holiday on St Andrew's Day, and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns".

Angus Ambassador Awards

On the 28th of November the Tay Valley Chairman was invited on behalf of Tayroots to present the Cultural Ambassador Creative Angus Award at the Angus Ambassador Awards at the Carnoustie Golf Hotel. We can reveal that the winner was The Gordon School of Dancing of Montrose, and highly recommended runners up were The Heritage Arts Auchmithie Residents and Michael Visocchi, the Kirriemuir Sculptor.

For further information contact: *Tay Valley FHS, 179/181 Princes Street, Dundee, DD4 6DQ*
Tel/Fax: 01382 461845

Website <http://www.tayvalleyfhs.org.uk>

Troon@Ayrshire FHS

The Troon society celebrated its 20th anniversary in March 2009. During the celebratory party there were flashback talks from some of the founder members. These showed very

clearly how different today's processes for family history research are from those to which people were confined even as recently as 1989. No doubt the next twenty years will show just as much change, though it is not clear what form the next revolution will take.

After several years of small membership decreases, we have seen quite a marked, and very welcome, reversal of that trend this year. The availability of the PayPal payment system may have helped in this by making payment of subscriptions easier and removing the problems and expense of currency for

overseas members. A developing and important behind-the-scenes feature of the society's life is the in-house production of

all our publications, both paper and CD. In most cases we offer the item either as a CD or in printed form. Apart from the attractive economics of producing our own material, the just-in-time approach it permits removes all the need to guess about stock levels, with the associated financial risks - an important advantage for a small society. All depends on hard-working, skilled volunteers, of course.

For further information contact: *The Chairman, Troon @ Ayrshire FHS, c/o MERC, Troon Library, South Beach, Troon, Ayrshire, KA10 6EF*

Website: www.troonayrshirefhs.org.uk

SAFHS PUBLICATIONS

	Postage	
	UK(£)	Airmail (£)
Inventory of Scottish Graveyards, 2 nd Edition, CD	£ 12.00	1.00 2.00
Parish Registers in the Kirk Session Minutes of the Church of Scotland	£ 4.00	0.80 3.25
The Parishes, Registers and Registrars of Scotland	£ 4.00	0.80 3.25
Registers of the Secession Churches in Scotland	£ 4.00	1.05 3.70
Scots Abroad (Part One)	£ 4.50	0.80 2.50
A Scottish Historian's Glossary	£ 4.50	0.35 1.75
Scottish Trades, Professions, Vital Records and Directories. A Selected Biography	£ 7.00	0.80 3.50
Weights and Measures	£ 3.75	0.80 2.50

The Bulletin

You may have noticed that, from this issue, **The Bulletin** has expanded in size! This was necessary, due to the increase in membership, as well as the amount of news each member society has to share.

It would be good to see contributions to **The Bulletin** from some of our overseas associate members, and all items should be sent to the Editor.

Remember that **The Bulletin** is available to view on the SAFHS website www.safhs.org.uk

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Updated on 4.4.2009

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, P.O. Box 38026, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 1N0, Canada

Cumbria Family History Society, Ulpha, 32 Granada Road, Denton, Manchester, M34 2LJ

New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc, P.O. Box 8795, 1 Symonds Street, Auckland 1035, New Zealand

Scottish Group, Genealogical Society of Queensland, P.O. Box 8423, Woolloongabba 4102, Queensland, Australia

Scottish Interest Group, Western Australian Genealogical Society, 6/48 May Street, Bayswater, 6053, Western Australia

Shoalhaven Family History Society, P.O. Box 591, Nowra, NSW 2541, Australia

South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society Inc, Society Library, 201 Unley Road, Unley, 5061, South Australia

The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc, GPO Box 585, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia.
