

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

The 29th SAFHS Annual Conference




**SAFHS 2018
Conference &
Family History Fair**

At the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes, KY7 5NX
on Saturday 21 April 2018

'Was Your Ancestor a Convict?'

Fife Family History Society presents
The SAFHS 29th Annual
Conference & Family History Fair

Entrance to the Fair (£2) payable at the door.
Accompanied children under 12 will be
admitted FREE of charge. Doors open 09:15.

Delegates to the Conference (4 talks) must
book in advance (£20)

£15 if booked before 12:00 on 03 Jan 2018

Enquiries from stallholders welcomed.

More details on the conference website:
safhs2018.fifeffhs.org

Hosted by Fife Family History Society Charity No: SC023246 safhs2018.fifeffhs.org

Featuring the launch of
The Fife
Kalender of
Convicts,
1790 - 1880
CD/digital
download

SAVE £5
Earlybird delegate
booking until
03 January 2018

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: Doug Stewart

The next SAFHS Council Meeting will take place on Saturday 13th October 2018 in The Sanctuary, Augustine Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh at 1.00.p.m. The meeting will be over by approx. 3.00 p.m. 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 Doug Stewart direct, including changes to your **website contact details** only.

Bulletin Editor

The Editor is experimenting with a slightly different layout and would like to include more pictures. It is also hoped to feature a different Society in each issue – please suggest your Society

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.

The Diary

All Family History Societies welcome members from other societies – check below for ideas

- 3 April **West Lothian FHS** "Gi's a haun'" night in Lanthorn Centre, Kenilworth Rise, Dedridge, Livingston EH54 6JL
- 7 April **ANESFHS** Moray/Banff Group 'Old Handwriting' in Elgin Library 2.00p.m.
- 7 April **ANESFHS** Edinburgh Group 'The Bedesmen of Old Aberdeen 1531- 1899.' - Prof Ray McAleese in Royal Scots Club Edinburgh 2.00p.m.
- 11th April **Caithness FHS** - Irish Records all went up in smoke – or did they? – Jill Williams in Pulteney Centre, Wick
- 11th April **Lothians FHS** - Kirk Session Minutes - Bruce Bishop in The Library, Lasswade Centre, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA.
- 14th April **Cumbria FHS** Spring One-Day Conference in Seascale, West Cumbria
- 16th April **Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS** - AGM + "The Daphne Disaster" - Bill Black in Gilchrist Theatre at Kelvinside Academy, 33 Kirklee Road, Glasgow, G12 0SW
- 21 April **ANESFHS** Aberdeen meeting 'The Rise of the North East Granite Industry' - Jim Fiddes in Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace, Aberdeen. 2.30 p.m.
- 21 April **SAFHS** 29th Annual Conference and Fair. 'Was your ancestor a convict?' in Rothes Halls Glenrothes 10 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
- 26th April **North Ayrshire FHS** 'Find your Ain Folk' in Community Room, Largs Library at 7-30pm
- 1 May **West Lothian FHS** "The Deidis Latterwills & Legacies: lifting the veil on past lives - Margaret Fox in Lanthorn Centre, Kenilworth Rise, Dedridge, Livingston EH54 6JL
- 5 May **ANESFHS** Moray/Banff Group 'Irish Research' in Elgin Library 2.00p.m.
- 9th May **Lothians FHS** The Slave Compensation Scheme, a Midlothian Connection – James Waugh in The Library, Lasswade Centre, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg, EH19 2LA.
- 12 May **ANESFHS** Glasgow Group meeting 'Members day, dating old photographs' in Renfield St Stephen's Church Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow 2.00 p.m.
- 19 May **ANESFHS** Aberdeen meeting 'Irish Research' - Jill Williams in Unitarian Church, Skene Terrace, Aberdeen. 2.30 p.m.
- 21st May **Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS** "Maps for Family history: some views on sources and resources – their strengths and weaknesses" – J Moore in Gilchrist Theatre at Kelvinside Academy, 33 Kirklee Road, Glasgow, G12 0SW
- 2 June **ANESFHS** Moray/Banff Group 'Moray Archives' - James Nock in Elgin Library 2.00 p.m.
- 5 June **West Lothian FHS** Annual General Meeting in Lanthorn Centre, Kenilworth Rise, Dedridge, Livingston EH54 6JL
- 9th June **Cumbria FHS** - 2018 Conference and AGM in Burton-in-Kendal
- 1 Sept **ANESFHS** Moray/Banff Group 'Bring along a brick wall' in Elgin Library 2.00 p.m.
- 8 Sept **ANESFHS** Aberdeen meeting 'See you at the fair! The history of North East fairs and shows' in Royal Scots Club Edinburgh 2.00p.m.

Society News

from around the Family History Societies

Aberdeen and NE Scotland FHS

The meetings of the Society in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Elgin continue to be well-attended.

At the November meeting in Aberdeen, Alison Cameron explained recent discoveries during excavations of sites in and around Aberdeen inhabited by the Dominican (Black Friars), Franciscans (Grey Friars) and Carmelites (White Friars). During these excavations over 200 burials were uncovered, and various other interesting artefacts were found, dating from the 10th to the 15th centuries.

The Moray and Banff group explored various useful websites at their November meeting in Elgin Library, and on 18th November the members of the Glasgow group were given a valuable insight into Canadian records on-line by Neil Menzies who has extensive knowledge of these records. Jill Williams, well-known researcher, gave the Edinburgh branch a modern overview on Irish records and research on 11th November.

New publications include the Mis for Fetteresso Kirkyard, Kildrummy Kirkyard and the 1891 extension to Oldmeldrum Kirkyad. There are also revised editions of the MI's for Chapel of Garioch, Logie Durno and St Clement's Aberdeen kirkyards.

Over the coming summer the society will have a stand at the SAFHS Conference in Glenrothes on 21 April, at the Vintage Country Fair at Dunecht on 19-20 May, at the Troon Family History Fair on 2nd June. Later events include a stand at the York Family History Fair on 23 June, and at the Motherwell Family History Fair on 27 October.

The Shop, library and research centre on King Street has continued to be busy, and the Society was represented at many events over the course of last year. The society has a very full calendar of events over the coming summer, in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and in Elgin. A full list of these can be found on the ANESFHS website.

Contact: *Hon Secretary, Aberdeen and NE Scotland FHS, 158-164 King Street, Aberdeen AB24 5BD. Tel 01224 646323; Fax 01224 639096*

Email: enquiries@anesfhs.org.uk

Website: www.anesfhs.org.uk

Anglo Scottish FHS

Our winter programme was well received, notably a presentation by Dr. Laura Stewart on the Scottish Covenant and its relevance to politics today. Dr. Jerome de Groot of Manchester University spoke about DNA and its relevance to family history.

Our summer programme includes presentations about a local National Trust property, Quarry Bank Mill that recruited apprentices from Workhouses across the country, including Scotland. We will also welcome Dr. Eilidh Garrett with her presentation 'Connecting to Life through Death and Ken Nesbitt to talk about researching WW1 ancestors. Our outside visit in July will be to Elizabeth Gaskell's house. There will also be our usual Ancestry Workshop session.

We took up the offer to contribute to the FFHS Really Useful Leaflet 2018 and to their presentation at RootsTech 2018.

It remains to be seen if these entries have a positive response.

We continue to receive contributions to our Scottish Marriage Index. When searching the Index there is now a much friendlier presentation of results. For contributors there is a new page for data input, for approval by administrator before inclusion in database. Whilst we would encourage contributors to use this method, data may still be sent to smi@mlfhs.org.uk. You can access the Index at www.angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk. I encourage you to have a look.

Have you viewed our monthly newsletter? 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 2.00pm., except August and December and non-members of the Society are always welcome. The help desk is open from 10.30am until 1.00pm.

Contact: Michael J Couper, 3rd Floor, Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 5PD

E-mail: angloscots@mlfhs.org.uk

Website: www.anglo-scots.mlfhs.org.uk

Caithness FHS

Caithness Family History Society continues to attract good numbers to our talks. Recent highlights were 'The Veterans Memorial' by local historian Roy Mackenzie. This monument which stands on Wick's North Head was built to commemorate the men of Caithness who took part in the many worldwide military campaigns prior to the First World War. Roy has been a key figure in ensuring the survival of this monument. 442 veterans are recorded and commemorated in the tower.

Another Caithness building – the John O'Groats Mill has been in the ownership of the Houston family for generations. Current descendant, Rognivald Brown took the audience through the various generations and how the Mill changed along with these generations. The John O'Groats Mill is now the subject of a Development Trust which aims to restore it to its former glory.

Caithness Family History Society currently has a membership of c200 members.

Address: C/O Caithness Horizons, High Street, Thurso KW14 8AJ

Email: Secretary - nems623@btinternet.com

Website: <http://caithnessfhs.org.uk>

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

Cumbria FHS

Cumbria Family History Society are experiencing a subtle renaissance in our operations with a small surge in membership beating the national trend and renewed fresh interest and activity in our conferences in Cumbria as a whole. In November 2017 we were treated to a talk by Dr Nick Barratt of whom the undernoted photograph illustrates the packed audience for his and other speakers on the day held at the Crooklands Hotel in Kendal.

In 2016 we purchased a large, expensive volume of historical legal documents and ephemera which we are in the process of indexing and transcribing with the purpose of enabling public interest.

We were also fortunate to have donated a 400-year-old book of the registers of Holme Cultram Abbey in Cumbria which is now being transcribed into modern English language which will no doubt be of extreme interest to all Cumbrian's worldwide.

I hope this will be of interest to SAFHS and begin to cement a closer link to our closest affiliation and I would be happy to provide any further information to you including a short summary of our scheduled conferences as follows:

Up to date Society information can be found on our website www.cumbriafhs.com

East Ayrshire FHS

Evening meetings are held at 7 pm in The Johnnie Walker Bond, Strand Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 1HU on the second Thursday of the months September to May. Visitors are very welcome to attend. On most other Thursday afternoons throughout the year we meet for workshops. These are usually held from 1.30 to 3.30 pm in New Farm Loch Community Centre, Fraser Walk, Kilmarnock. We hope to continue to have the use of this venue but, if you are coming from a distance to visit us, please email enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk in advance to check arrangements.

At the evening meeting in January, Robert Watt, of *Past and Present* in Stewarton, gave an entertaining talk about **Collectibles**. He showed us pieces from his own collection and passed on some tips. Members had been invited to bring along items for valuation and Mr Watt spoke about those and answered questions.

At the February meeting, Bill Howie gave a very interesting talk about the internationally famous local company, **Glenfield and Kennedy**. As well as outlining the various stages in the setting up of the company, Bill presented information from censuses and other records about the main individuals involved. A few people who had worked for the company were at the talk, which was enjoyed by all.

In April, Irene McMillan's talk is about **Dundonald Castle**. On 10th May, the AGM will be followed by a local photographs presentation by John Smillie.

Events: EAFHS will have a stand at the SAFHS Conference and Family History Fair on **Saturday 21st April** in the Rothes Hall, Glenrothes and at the South Ayrshire Local History & Family History Fair on **Saturday 2nd June** in the Walker Halls, Troon. We are also planning to be at the Lanarkshire FHS show in Motherwell Concert Hall on **Saturday 27th October**. If you are attending any of these events, we would love to meet you.

Next session: The opening evening meeting of the 2018-2019 session will be on **Thursday 13th September**.

Website: www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Postal address: Secretary, East Ayrshire FHS, c/o Dick Institute, Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BU

Email: enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk or find us on **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/eaafhs

Fife FHS

THE FIFE KALENDAR OF CONVICTS (1790-1880) CD.

The Fife Family History Society is hosting the 29th SAFHS Annual Conference and Fair, to be held in the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes, on 21 April 2018. Visit our dedicated website, safhs2018.fifefhs.org for more information. The Conference will have a convict theme, and the Fife Family History Society will take the opportunity of launching The Fife Kalendar of Convicts, 1790-1880.

Over 20 years in the making (first begun in 1994), The Fife Kalendar of Convicts (1790-1880) CD, is an indexing of many of the Courts in Fife, as well as the Fife cases before the High Court, including AD14 precognitions and JC26 Trial Records, which have been indexed up to 1900. Also indexed up to 1900 are the Jury Trials of Cupar Sheriff Court and Dunfermline Sheriff Court held by the National Records of Scotland. For the Summary Trials of Dunfermline Sheriff Court, we have indexed the Criminal Libels, 1825-1873, in the SC21/23 Series. Only one volume of Summary Trials of Cupar Sheriff Court has been retained from 1847-1849 in the SC20/58 series.

For the Criminal Libels from 1825-1884 the SC20/63 series has been indexed.

The Summary libels in this series have only been retained up to 1853, and for the summary cases after 1853 we have gone to the local newspapers.

We have also indexed the Justice of the Peace records held by the National Records of Scotland and Fife Council Archives (these deal mainly with poaching (or trespass in search of game, as it was then known), and added the Burgh/Police/Magistrates Court records held by Fife Council Archives and St Andrews University Library.

For those convicts who were transported, we have searched the Australian Convict Records held on Ancestry. Most were held in English Jails prior to transportation. For those who were sentenced to longer periods of penal servitude (over 3 years), these sentences were also served in English Jails, and we have searched the English Convict Prison records on FindmyPast. Over 30 of the English files contained photographs, and we have received permission from the National Archives at Kew to reproduce these. We have also traced photographs to the Lunatic Department of the General Prison at Perth (4 are currently on our website) and also to Perth County Prison, and again permission has been obtained to reproduce these. Illustrations have also been added from published trial pamphlets

To put flesh on the bones information on the convicts has also been extracted from the Fife newspapers, beginning with the Fife Herald, founded in 1822. Other newspapers searched include the Fife Journal (Cupar), Fife Advertiser (Kirkcaldy), Fife Free Press (Kirkcaldy), and East of Fife Record (Anstruther). Finally, extensive searches have been made into Statutory Registration and OPRs to add Births, Marriages and Deaths to the Convicts, as well as searches in the Census Returns. Notes have been added on next of kin, and in some cases whole genealogies have been included

Thus, the Fife Kalendar of Convicts is much more than a mere index of the records. It is much more than that. We are sure that those using the CD will find something of interest.

The Fife Kalendar of Convicts has been compiled by a noted local genealogist, who has been editor of The Fife Family History Society Journal for over 25 years, and who has indexed many of its records over the years, including Fife Shopkeepers and Traders (1820-1870). He also helped to co-ordinate the pre-1855 Fife Death Index CD, published by the Society, which has over a quarter of a million entries.

Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS

The Society was founded in 1977 with the aim of promoting the study of family history, particularly for those whose family history has links with Glasgow and the west of Scotland. Our website has a map of the area that we cover and the parishes within this area.

We arrange monthly meetings between September and May. All meetings (unless otherwise stated) are held in the Gilchrist Theatre at Kelvinside Academy, 33 Kirklee Road, Glasgow, G12 0SW and entry is via the Kirklee Rd entrance. The meetings start at 7:30pm prompt

Information on the meetings can be found on the Society's website and reports of the talks are usually given in the Society's Newsletter published three times a year in March, June and October. There is an index to the Society's Newsletter, from 1978 (Issue 1) to 2015 (Issue 104) on the Society's website

Please note that any changes to venues will be advertised on the Society Website or the Society Facebook.

The monthly electronic newsletter, E-NEWS, is sent out to all members with an email address. This provides members not just with the Society's news updates but general news as well. Back issues can be viewed on the members only area of the website that also includes several databases together with information from recent talks.

The Society has a Research Centre at Unit 13, 32 Mansfield Street, Partick, Glasgow. It is situated just off Dumbarton Road and is well served by public transport, Kelvinhall Underground Station is also nearby. The Centre's opening hours are:

- TUESDAY from 10 am until 4.30 pm
- THURSDAY from 10 am until 8.30 pm
- SATURDAY from 2 pm until 4.30 pm

except for Easter Saturday and 3-4 weeks over Christmas & New Year. For exact dates please check the Society's website.

Non-members can join the Society when they visit and then get immediate access to the collections. Our facilities include photocopier, research computers, microfiche and microfilm viewers, a fiche/film copier and access to the Internet. Guidance is available to members on request.

As well as frequent additions to the Society's library there are also regular additions to the computers in the centre. The library additions include both new publications and out-of-print books and the library catalogue can be searched on the Society's website. Many of the books are donated by members.

In addition to the library holdings we hold:

- 1841, 1851 and 1861 census films for our area and indexes for these.
- 1881 census and indexes for the whole of Scotland, England & Wales.
- 1891 census index for the whole of Scotland and the films for our area.
- 1901 census index for the whole of Scotland and the films for our area.

The Society also offers a wide range of publications for sale and details of these can be viewed on the Society's website.

Contact: G&WSFHS, Unit 13, 32 Mansfield Street, Glasgow G11 5QP: Tel: 0141-339 8303

Website: www.gwsfhs.org.uk **Twitter:** @GWSFHS

Lanarkshire FHS

We have been successful in receiving a grant from the "**Heritage Lottery Fund**". This will be used to develop a 'Master' Database which will hold information on all Lanarkshire men who fell during WW1. Over the next 6 months we will be promoting the project by giving Talks and Presentations at Church Groups, Schools and other organisations.

We will also be seeking information from the public and our own members about their ancestors who fell during WW1 and add the family information given to the records we find on the Lanarkshire fallen.

The Master List will list against each name all Memorials i.e. Civic, Churches, Schools and Clubs including "Rolls of Honour". In addition, the list will inform people of any 'Fallen' book or Web-based source containing information on their ancestor.

The Reference Library in our Motherwell Research Centre is currently being organised and catalogued by our Librarian Anne Gallacher. There are now over 1,600 books covering local, military and family history topics. Many of the books have been donated by society members.

Our "**Local and Family History Show**" will be held on Saturday 27th October, as usual it will be held in Motherwell Concert Hall. There will be a selection of Scotland's Family History Societies and many of Lanarkshire History/Heritage Groups attending.

Our current research projects:

Military Books our Military Groups latest books in the WW1Fallen series will be: -

"Harthill, A village that Went to War" researched by Alistair Allan and assisted by Joe O'Raw MBE.

"The Fallen of Lesmahagow Parish" researched by Lindsay Freeland and Morag White. Both books are going through final checking and will be launched at the **SAFHS "Conference and Family History Fair"** in Rothes Hall, Glenrothes on Saturday 21st April.

School Books this series is proving very popular and around 40 schools have now been completed. When researching your ancestors, school registers and log books can inform you when families moved into an area and, if they leave the area, where they moved to. Some of the registers and log books start in the 1850's. Society member Robert Earl leads the team transcribing School Registers and Log Books. His team of checkers include Marion Taylor, Helen Kirk, and Mary Murray. His current books nearing completion are Crawford Public School and Abington Public School and Whitecleughs Public School.

Graveyard Group Janet Smith and her team including Celia Gilfillan, Dallas Carter and Jessie Hamilton are currently checking their transcriptions of Carluke Cemetery. They are now planning which Kirkyards and Cemeteries they will visit during spring and summer 2018.

It is thanks to our great team of volunteers that make it possible to carry out so much transcribing and research each year.

E-membership UK and WW £10 for 12 months starting the month you join.

Contact: North Lanarkshire Heritage Centre, 1 High Road, Motherwell. ML1 3HU. Research Centre address: 122 - 124 Merry Street, Motherwell. ML1 1NA.

E-mail: secretary-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.lanarkshirefhs.org.uk

Lothians FHS

Our team of volunteers continue to provide an excellent support service to new and experienced researchers and have continued our program of transcribing the burial indexes for Midlothian.



The Society has a number of resources at its disposal. There is a selection of books and pamphlets for the absolute beginner, some more specialised guides for the more advanced members and newsletters from other Family History Societies. There are files on alternative sources of information from Scottish Public Libraries to the National Repositories like National Records of Scotland. We have an expanding collection of Edinburgh Directories of various dates, files of commercial search organisations and of various courses and events. Of course, the library has a number of publications and a collection of maps covering Scotland and Northern England.

A newsletter is produced thrice yearly, to members to inform and keep abreast of the activities by members or just provide interesting stories about family history. If you have anything you think might interest the members, whether it is pertinent

to your family or not, or something you have found of interest, funny or otherwise, the society would like to hear from you.

The society also provides a wide variety of informative and entertaining talks

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

In 2018, the Society will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary with a lunch on the 2nd. September in Kelburn Castle, Fairlie, at which founder members and more recent will enjoy rekindling friendships and share reminiscences.

The New Year began with Barbara Graham telling us about Dr. Elsie Inglis and the Scottish Women's Hospital. Dr. Inglis was a very remarkable woman and a suffragist, who offered the services of trained doctors and nurses to the British Army at the breakout of W.W.1.

The commanders refused her offer and told her to, 'go home and sit still'. Fortunately, the French were more enlightened and welcomed her and her staff. They served throughout Europe and were captured by the Germans, but later released.

Dr. Inglis worked tirelessly, even though terminally ill, returning to England and dying a few days later on 26th. November, 1917. She is buried in Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh.

February's speaker was Mrs. I. Lind, a former headmistress, who with much enthusiasm researched the military background of her grandfather, as part of a W.W.1 project with some of her pupils. She remembered as a small child gas and shrapnel being mentioned in hushed tones, on visits to her grandparents. Later, in her research she discovered that, like many others, he returned to the front after suffering both.

North Ayrshire will be hosting the Joint Meeting of the Ayrshire Family History Societies on the 13th March, in the Session House of St. Columba's Church, Largs, at 7-30pm. The speaker will be Bruce Durie and his subject will be, 'The Retours and Services of Heirs'.

The final meeting before the AGM on the 8th. May, will be on the 10th. April; the speaker and subject is still to be confirmed.

Several committee members are working with Largs Historical Society to collate information on births, marriages and deaths from early copies of 'The Largs and Millport Weekly News'.

Our meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month from September to April in the Community Room in Largs Library at 7-30pm, unless otherwise stated.

The dates of '**Find your Ain Folk**' Workshops are as follows 22nd.February, 29th. March, 26th. April. Our membership numbers are being maintained, supported by those attending the Workshops on the last Thursday of the month from 2-30-4-30pm.

*Contact details: Largs Library, 26, Allanspark Street, Largs, KA30 9AG
Secretary: ann.clydeview@outlook.com Web-site: north-ayrshire.gov.uk*

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 10.30-5.30, 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 30p. 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. Upcoming topics include 'Beginners', 'Irish Records', 'Health and History: Using Medical Records in Genealogical Research' and 'Kirk Session Records'. Please see the website for further details.

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

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. 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. We aim to provide a similar service to that which we already currently have in place at the Local History Library in Linlithgow, where we provide a "helping hand" to anyone who pops in to the Local History Library.

The Lanthorn is also a place 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 beginners 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.

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

Linlithgow - The newly refurbished West Lothian Local History Library, based in Tam Dalyell House [formerly the County Buildings], is now open and is now reference only. The resources will be maintained, and customers are welcome to carry out their own research in the Local History Library which is situated on the first floor, where you can browse the collection and carry out your own research. The Library is open Monday to Saturday. The Library is open Monday to Saturday.

There will be a volunteer from the Family History Society on duty at the Local History Library on Wednesdays and Fridays to offer assistance.

Linlithgow days and times: Wednesdays and Fridays between 11.00 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. 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.

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

Website: www.wlfhs.org.uk

Spotlight Society

Caithness Family History Society



Caithness Family History Society was formed in 1999 by a small group of family history enthusiasts and now includes an international membership. The aim is to promote an interest in genealogy and support those seeking to trace their family roots, particularly where there are Caithness connections.

Meetings are arranged on the second Wednesday of each month, except for July and August. Meetings are held in Caithness Horizons, Old Town Hall, Thurso, with (currently) two per session held in Wick. The programme, detailing guest speakers is available to members in the Caithness Family History Journal, the SAFHS Bulletin and advertised locally by means of posters.

Caithness Family History members have considerable skills in genealogical research plus knowledge of Caithness and its historical resources. Our members will be delighted to share this knowledge and expertise in assisting members.

Help is also available for new or potential members who are beginning to research their family trees

The benefits of membership of the Caithness Family History Society:

- Your research interests are published in the Journal
- You receive copies of the Journal (either by post or electronically)
- You have access to the CFHS Library (located in Caithness Horizons) where there is a substantial collection of family trees, books, microfilms etc.
- Transcribed and published census returns and memorial inscriptions relating to Caithness. These can be accessed in the Library or purchased at a members discount
- Access to the Members Only section of Caithness Family History website <http://caithnessfhs.org.uk>
- Contact with Volunteers who can assist with your research

Please get in touch via <http://caithnessfhs.org.uk> or Facebook at Caithness Family History Society

Show & Tell Pictures from around the Societies



'Dr Nick Barratt holds our Cumbria Family History Society members enthralled'

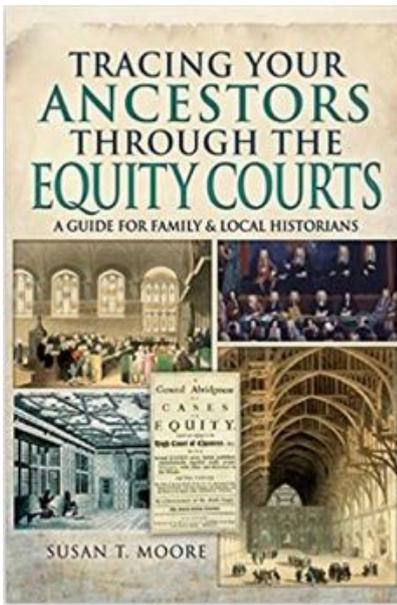


Anglo Scottish FHS February meeting with Dr. de Groot

Resource Review

[new books, relevant websites etc.]

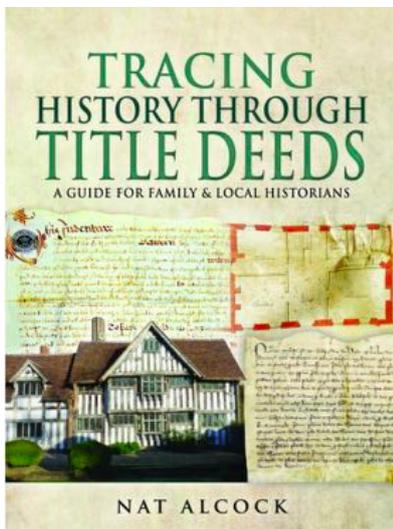
Tracing Your Ancestors Through Equity Courts



The records of the Courts of Equity, which dealt with cases of fairness rather than law, are among the most detailed, extensive and revealing of all the legal documents historians can consult, yet they are often neglected. Susan Moore's expert introduction to them opens up this fascinating source to researchers who may not be familiar with them and don't know how to take advantage of them. As she traces the purpose, history and organization of the Courts of Equity from around 1500 to 1876, she demonstrates how varied their role was and how valuable their archives are for us today. She covers the Courts of Chancery, Exchequer, Star Chamber, Requests, Palatinates and Duchy of Lancaster in clear detail. Her work shows researchers why their records are worth searching, how to search them and how many jewels of information can be found in them. This introduction will be appreciated by local, social and family historians who are

coming to these records for the first time and by those who already know of the records but have found them daunting.

Tracing History Through Title Deeds



Property title deeds are perhaps the most numerous sources of historical evidence but also one of the most neglected. While the information any one deed contains can often be reduced to a few lines, it can be of critical importance for family and local historians. Nat Alcock's handbook aims to help the growing army of enthusiastic researchers to use the evidence of these documents, without burying them in legal technicalities. It also reveals how fascinating and rewarding they can be once their history, language and purpose are understood. A sequence of concise, accessible chapters explains why they are so useful, where they can be found and how the evidence they provide can be extracted and applied. Family historians will find they reveal family, social and financial relationships and local historians can discover from them so much about land ownership, field and place names,

the history of buildings and the expansion of towns and cities. They also bring our ancestors into view in the fullness of life, not just at birth, marriage and death, and provide more rounded pictures of the members of a family tree.

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