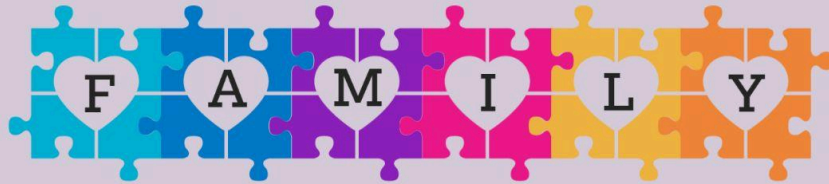



# Scottish Indexes Conference



Learn how to trace your Scottish  
family history 

[www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com)



## Quick Links

['Searching for ancestors in The Royal Mail Archive'](#) by Susannah Coster

['Parochial Matters: parishes, districts and counties'](#) By Robert Urquhart

['An introduction to the Forfeited Estates papers in the National Records of Scotland'](#) by Tessa Spencer

['Scottish Burghs and Trade Incorporations'](#) by Chris Paton

['Catholicism at Traquair House – from locked doors to open doors'](#)  
by Margaret Fox

['Criminal Ancestors: piecing together their story from a variety of sources'](#)  
by Emma Maxwell

[Scottish Genealogy Q&A session links and reading list](#)

[Virtual Family History Fair](#)

## Scottish Indexes Conference XXV

7 September 2024

What a way to kick off our 2024/25 conference season! I hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did.

I hope you have all been inspired to dive deeper into Scottish family history and you will now be able to get past some brick walls. Huge thank you to our marvellous speakers who worked so hard all day.

In November we will be visiting the St Andrews University Archive, learning more about Historic Environment Scotland, discussing Minner's housing and much more! I hope you can join us.

Register for the [November conference here](#).

Graham & Emma Maxwell

Genealogists at [www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com)



## 'Searching for ancestors in The Royal Mail Archive'

by Susannah Coster

Website: <https://www.postalmuseum.org/collections/the-archive/>

Facebook: [@thepostalmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/thepostalmuseum)

Ancestry Collection: [UK, Postal Service Appointment Books, 1737-1969](#)

Susannah Coster is an Archivist at The Postal Museum in London where she has worked for over eight years. In her time at the museum, she has developed an especial interest in the archive's records relating to the working conditions and social history of Post Office staff, packet ships, uniforms, and the photographic collection.

The Postal Museum is home to the Royal Mail Archive, which holds the records of the British Post Office dating back to 1637. Susannah has extensive experience of working with the genealogical resources in the archive and of advising family historians with their research, which she really enjoys. She gives talks and has written articles on the subject for the British 'Who Do You Think You Are?' and 'Family Tree' magazines.

When not advising family historians and other researchers on a diverse range of enquiries, her work includes cataloguing records, and researching and writing blogs, webpages and articles to share the contents of this rich and wonderful archive with as wide an audience as possible.

This talk guided us through the process of researching our ancestors who worked for the British postal service. The records held in The Royal Mail Archive include Scotland and are a rich resource for family historians. The talk showed which family history records can be accessed remotely. It gave some insights into how the postal service has shaped our lives, transforming communication, and how a Scottish woman changed Post Office rules.



Scottish Indexes  
Conference

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2024

FAMILY

Learn how to trace your  
Scottish family tree

**'Parochial Matters: parishes,  
districts and counties'  
by Robert Urquhart**

www.scottishindexes.com

## 'Parochial Matters: parishes, districts and counties'

By Robert Urquhart

Website: [abbotshall.net](http://abbotshall.net)

Robert Urquhart is a native of the Kingdom of Fife, and worked as an archivist for 35 years in local authority archives in the west of Scotland and in Scotland's national archives. During his career he also taught palaeography. He was the joint editor of 'The Hearth Tax for Ayrshire, 1691' (Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies, 1998) and the original content writer and editor of the [www.scottishhandwriting.com](http://www.scottishhandwriting.com) website. He now runs Abbotshall Palaeography, a transcription and teaching business, dealing mostly with 16th and 17th seventeenth century wills and testaments, marriage contracts and other court records. In his spare time, he is involved in research projects concerning parish boundaries and early modern Scottish communities in the Netherlands.

At first sight, Scotland appears to have been neatly divided into counties and parishes from the Middle Ages until very recently. Records used by historians are often subdivided into counties and parishes/districts. Academic historians often define an area of study by one or more counties, burghs and parishes. Family history websites offer drop-down lists to refine searches by county and then by registration district or parish.

This apparent neatness masks what was, in reality, a complex administrative geography. The boundaries of parishes, counties and districts could change, overlap or be disputed. Officials who compiled the records we use (registrars, assessors, and the clerks of kirk sessions and parochial boards) might define what they meant by a parish in different ways, depending on whether it was for church, local government or central government purposes.

In this talk Robert looked at some of the issues affecting records such as statutory registers of births, marriages and deaths; Old Parish Registers; census returns; kirk session minutes; poor relief registers; and valuation rolls. Robert explained why sometimes the parish name,

as stated in a record or index, might be misleading or vague. The talk showed how boundary changes and the mismatch of county and parish boundaries can catch out unwary researchers and be the cause of failed searches for people, places or buildings in records. Robert also shared some practical tips when searching online.

## PARISHES, COUNTIES AND DISTRICTS: HANDOUT

General background to parishes, districts, counties, burghs  
National Library of Scotland administrative history pages-  
<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/boundaries/history.html> .

ScotlandsPeople guides to parishes and districts -  
<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/help-and-support/guides/parishes-and-districts>,  
and counties, cities and burghs -  
<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/help-and-support/guides/counties-cities-and-burghs>.

Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland, New edition - <https://gazetteerofscotland.org.uk/> and  
<https://archive.org/details/ordnancegazett1901groo/>.

Origines Parochiales Scotiae –  
<https://digital.nls.uk/publications-by-scottish-clubs/archive/83266747>.

Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae –

- Vol 1: Synod of Lothian & Tweeddale  
<http://www.archive.org/details/fastiecclesiaesc01scot>
- Vol 2: Synods of Merse & Teviotdale, Dumfries & Galloway  
<http://www.archive.org/details/fastiecclesiaesc02scot>
- Vol 3: Synod of Glasgow and Ayr  
<http://www.archive.org/details/fastiecclesiaesc03scot>
- Vol 4: Synods of Argyll and of Perth & Stirling  
<http://www.archive.org/details/fastiecclesiaesc04scot>
- Vol 5: Synods of Fife and of Angus & Mearns  
<http://www.archive.org/details/fastiecclesiaesc05scot>
- Vol 6: Synods of Aberdeen and of Moray  
<http://www.archive.org/details/fastiecclesiaesc06scot>
- Vol 7: Synods of Ross, Sutherland & Caithness, Glenelg, Orkney and of Shetland, the Church in England, Ireland and Overseas  
<http://www.archive.org/details/fastiecclesiaesc07scot>.

National Library of Scotland map website - especially county maps and the Ordnance Survey 1890s edition with coloured parishes.

Hay Shennan, Boundaries of Counties and Parishes in Scotland as Settled by the Boundary Commissioners under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889 (1892)  
[https://archive.org/details/bub\\_gb\\_meygAAAAMAAJ](https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_meygAAAAMAAJ) or

<https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/dv/pdfs/hay-shennan.>

## Specific Parishes and Issues

### Medieval and Reformation parishes

Use the Ordnance Gazetteer, Origines Parochiales Scotiae, and Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae to explain the history and status of specific parishes.

### 1889-1892 Boundary Commission Changes

If you think a civil parish or county boundary was altered between 1889 and 1892 use the Ordnance Gazetteer and/or Hay Shennan's Boundaries of Counties and Parishes in Scotland as Settled by the Boundary Commissioners under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889.

### 1892-1929 parish boundary changes

There is no definitive guide to civil parish boundary changes which affected about 150 parishes between 1892 and 1929 but one is in preparation. Changes can be detected by using the ScotlandsPeople valuation roll indexes -

<https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/search-records/tax-records/vr.>

### Landed estates and parishes

Land tax rolls on the ScotlandsPlaces website identify who owned land in each county and parish -

<https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/historical-tax-rolls/land-tax-rolls-1645-1831.>

The ScotlandsPeople valuation roll indexes are much more precise for almost every property in each parish or burgh after 1855 -

<https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/search-records/tax-records/vr.>

### Forthcoming online conference:

Estate Papers and Household Collections and their Use in Research

Scottish Records Association in conjunction with Scottish Association of Country House Archivists

Wednesday 23 October and Friday 15 November 2024

[www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/conference.](http://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/conference.)

Scottish Indexes  
Conference

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2024

FAMILY

Learn how to trace your  
Scottish family tree

**'An introduction to the  
Forfeited Estates papers in the  
National Records of Scotland'  
By Tessa Spencer**

www.scottishindexes.com

## 'An introduction to the Forfeited Estates papers in the National Records of Scotland'

by Tessa Spencer

Website: [nrsotland.gov.uk](https://nrsotland.gov.uk)

Research Guide - [Exchequer Records](#)

You will be able to watch this presentation in the 'past conferences' section of our website: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/pastconferences.aspx>.

Tessa Spencer is a history graduate from the Universities of St. Andrews and Glasgow where she studied medieval history and the history of medicine respectively. She is a professional archivist and has worked at the National Records of Scotland for over 20 years in various roles.

In her current post as Head of Outreach and Learning, she is responsible for education in the archives for all ages and stages of learning from school pupils to university students to lifelong learners. She also facilitates access to the archives for higher education collaborations and partnerships.

Tessa Spencer provided an introduction to the Forfeited Estates papers found among the Exchequer records in the National Records of Scotland (NRS). The papers are records of the administration of the estates forfeited in 1690, 1715 and 1745 because their owners supported the Jacobite cause.

Tessa explained what these records are and how they were compiled, how you can access and use them for family and local history research, and highlighted some interesting and surprising examples.



## ‘Scottish Burghs and Trade Incorporations’

by Chris Paton

Website: [Scotland's Greatest Story](#)

Blog: [Scottish GENES](#)

Facebook: [@TheGENESBlog](#)

Northern Irish born Chris Paton lives in Ayrshire, in the west of Scotland, where he works as a professional genealogist, an author, tutor and a lecturer specialising in Scottish and Irish research. A former television documentary maker for the BBC and STV, and case worker for a Member of the Scottish Parliament, Chris holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Genealogical Studies from the University of Strathclyde, and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Chris blogs daily at [Scottish GENES](#). His recent books include Tracing Your Belfast Ancestors, Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records, Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet, Tracing Your Irish Ancestors Through Land Records, Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet (2nd ed), and Sharing Your Family History Online, available from Pen and Sword in the UK at [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk), in the USA at [www.penandswordbooks.com](http://www.penandswordbooks.com), and via other distributors worldwide.

In this session, Chris Paton explored Scotland’s historic burghs, a series of enterprise zones set up within the country’s ancient feudal system within the medieval period, as a means to facilitate the manufacturing of goods and their sales. As the forerunners to Scotland’s towns and cities, the burghs were home to urban communities and organisations who operated under their own set rules and regulations, generating many records along the way. Chris discussed the various types of burghs that existed, the records of the councils, merchants and trade incorporations, and how their records can be used for our family history research today.

# Scottish Indexes Conference

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2024



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**'Catholicism at Traquair  
House - from locked doors to  
open doors'  
by Margaret Fox**

[www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com)

## 'Catholicism at Traquair House – from locked doors to open doors'

by Margaret Fox

Return to Traquair Baptisms, marriages, confirmations:

<https://www.traquair.co.uk/returntotraquair/>

Margaret holds an M.A. (Hons.) degree in History from Edinburgh University and is a professional archivist. For many years she has looked after the archives at [Traquair House](#), Scotland's oldest inhabited house. She worked for twelve years in the National Records of Scotland where she immersed herself in the records of the Kirk (Church of Scotland) and the High Court of Justiciary, and in wills and testaments. She now enjoys promoting these records, and also Traquair's fascinating archival heritage, at local and family history societies and at online genealogy conferences.

In this presentation Margaret gave us a brief history of the Stuart family of Traquair House in the Scottish Borders, focusing on its loyalty to the Roman Catholic religion, often in the face of unrelenting persecution. She spoke about a wonderful little leather-bound manuscript volume which came back to Traquair in July 2022 having mysteriously strayed from the house at some point. It contains detailed records of Catholic baptisms, marriages and confirmations conducted by William Wallace, Traquair's resident chaplain, in the first half of the 19th century, recording families which made arduous journeys across the length and breadth of the country to have their children baptised at Traquair. To illustrate the volume's usefulness as a Catholic genealogical resource Margaret showed some family groupings from it.



Scottish Indexes  
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SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2024

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www.scottishindexes.com

*'Criminal Ancestors: piecing together their story from a variety of sources'  
by Emma Maxwell*

## 'Criminal Ancestors: piecing together their story from a variety of sources'

by Emma Maxwell

Website: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/>

Facebook: [@scottish.indexes](https://www.facebook.com/scottish.indexes)

YouTube: [Scottish Indexes](https://www.youtube.com/ScottishIndexes)

Emma Maxwell is a genealogist and co-founder of Scottish Indexes. Working extensively with the records of the National Records of Scotland for over 20 years, Emma has an in-depth knowledge of the most useful records for Scottish genealogy as well as the more obscure.

Emma's passion is to uncover stories of 'everyday' people, the people who do not show up in history books. She uses diverse records to piece together the stories of our ancestors, uncover their lives document by document and shine a light on their past.

To help others do this, Emma and her husband Graham Maxwell began indexing mental health, 'paternity' and prison records. In 2014 Emma and Graham launched Scottish Indexes which has continued to grow and now includes indexes to criminal, health, poor relief records and more. The extensive Learning Zone will enable you to make effective searches on their website as well as learn more about tracing your Scottish family tree.

Since spring 2020 Emma and Graham Maxwell have been hosting Scottish genealogy conferences. These are now held four times a year between September and April to help you discover records that will enable you to expand your Scottish family tree.

We always need to look at more than one source of information when we are tracing our family history and this is especially true when you are searching for criminal ancestors.

In this presentation, Emma Maxwell, genealogist at Scottish Indexes, showed us how to piece the jigsaw together. To get started we need to look for clues, which could be from birth, marriage, death or census records. We may need to 'fill in the gaps' if some prison records have not survived. Emma showed us how to build a timeline from a variety of sources and shared some wonderful records she has discovered along the way.

Links from the presentation:

Search Scotland's Criminal Database:

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/ScotlandsCriminalDatabase.aspx>

Learning Zone - Scottish High Court Criminal Records -

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/learninghighcourtadvanced.aspx>

Catalogue of the National Records of Scotland -

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/search.aspx>

Ancestry - Fife, Scotland, Criminal Registers, 1910-1931:

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61426/?srsltid=AfmBOorhQ-tcCn24FiIz5hEQjTX9Es-lxXoUw7VRXcGUL4nK2ipn0SRt>

Aberdeen Criminal Portraits Blog: <https://criminalportraits.blogspot.com/>



## Q&A and Submitted Links

### Websites suggested in the chat:

UK Post Offices by County:

<https://sites.google.com/site/ukpostofficesbycounty/home/scotland?authuser=0>

There is a list of OPRs which includes Kir Session records at

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//research/list-of-oprs/list-of-oprs-appendix2-2018.pdf>

Phillimore including Scotland is included on Ancestry

[https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/8830/?srsltid=AfmBOory4Kw9baeTEr-kDMSm8O-r45ZygiO9GMEhIDVaUf\\_SWyVg5HDo](https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/8830/?srsltid=AfmBOory4Kw9baeTEr-kDMSm8O-r45ZygiO9GMEhIDVaUf_SWyVg5HDo)

From Memory to Written Record: England 1066 - 1307, 3rd Edition

<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/From+Memory+to+Written+Record%3A+England+1066+-+1307%2C+3rd+Edition-p-9781118295984> also available to borrow from Internet Archive:  
<https://archive.org/details/frommemorytowrit0000clan>

The 1884-5 edition of Groome: <https://digital.nls.uk/97491611>

This Gazetteer site has images of every page of the six volumes of Groome's 2nd Edition of 1896. <http://gazetteerofscotland.org.uk/>

Edinburgh Dean of Guild Court Records <https://canmore.org.uk/project/1009195>

Old Edinburgh Club website: <https://oldedinburghclub.org.uk/projects/>

For Dundee records see Friends of Dundee City Archives website - and there's a Family History Fair they're running on Sat 21st Sept - info at [http://www.fdca.org.uk/2024\\_Family\\_History\\_Fair.html](http://www.fdca.org.uk/2024_Family_History_Fair.html)

Glasgow Trades House Digital Archive at <https://www.tradeshouselibrary.org/archives.html>

A list of Guildries that still exist. <http://www.deansofguildscotland.co.uk/guildries/>

Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen - includes Coopers  
<https://seventradesofaberdeen.co.uk/>

NSW State Archives <https://mhns.wa.gov.au/collections/state-archives-collection/>

Trove is a collaboration between the National Library of Australia and hundreds of Partner organisations around Australia. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

In addition to Trove, check <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>

Museums of History New South Wales <https://mhns.wa.gov.au>

Based in Northton in the Isle of Harris, Hebrides People is a visitor and genealogy centre. Explore the people of the Hebrides through over 200,000 online records!  
<https://hebridespeople.com/>

Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae – Digital Index <https://www.ecclegen.com/>

Edinburgh, Scotland, Army Attestation Registers, 1796-1857  
[https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62349/?srsltid=AfmBOopAR\\_EYja3gZHeMCxgaScMwD0G9VMuLg\\_umTzTyFsdA4yfWCgGy](https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62349/?srsltid=AfmBOopAR_EYja3gZHeMCxgaScMwD0G9VMuLg_umTzTyFsdA4yfWCgGy)

National Records of Scotland's Online Catalogue:  
<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue/welcome.aspx>

Trinity Hall is the hub from which the daily life of the Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen revolves <https://seventradesofaberdeen.co.uk/>

Woolen mill <https://doriccolumns.wordpress.com/industry/textiles/wool/grandholm-mill/>

Inland Revenue Survey Maps and Field Books  
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/inland-revenue-survey-maps-and-field-books>

Customs and Excise Records:  
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/customs-and-excise-records>

The stooshie over EIIR pillar boxes is commemorated in a great folk song called Sky-High Joe <https://www.electricscotland.com/culture/features/singasang/skyhigh.htm>

News-plan on NLS <https://digital.nls.uk/catalogues/newsplan-titles/list/>

Learn with Lorna

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxasYGi8klcL7OThf1QGSHAMACY\\_1DGE](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYxasYGi8klcL7OThf1QGSHAMACY_1DGE)

Traquair House Archives <https://www.traquair.co.uk/traquair-archives/>

Highland Archive Service <https://www.highlifehighland.com/archives-service/>

Scottish Mining Website <http://scottishmining.co.uk>

Inverurie ask at Garioch Heritage Centre <https://gariochheritage.co.uk/>

The University of St. Andrews, Institute of Scottish Historical Research, has a research institute with information on burgesses of Dundee, including, for example, James Gellatly, who in 1587 was trading in Danzig. This database may be useful for family historians. See <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/ssne/item.php?id=645>

Libindx is the Local Heritage Service's index to sources of information about people, places and subjects relating to Moray. <https://libindx.moray.gov.uk/mainmenu.asp>

Paisley People's Archive <https://www.paisleypeoplesarchive.org/>

This group is in Paisley <https://renfrewshirefhs.co.uk/> and very helpful

### **Reading list:**

Steel, Donald John., Steel, A. E. F., and Society of Genealogists. National Index of Parish Registers. Vol. 12, Sources for Scottish Genealogy and Family History. London: Phillimore for the Society of Genealogists, 1970. [Details on NLS](#).

Bigwood, Rosemary. The Scottish Family Tree Detective : Tracing Your Ancestors in Scotland. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2006. [Details on NLS](#).

Hamilton-Edwards, Gerald Kenneth Savery. In Search of Scottish Ancestry. 2nd ed. Chichester: Phillimore, 1983. [Details on NLS](#).

Clarke, Clarke, T. N., and National Records of Scotland. Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors : A Guide to Ancestry Research in the National Records of Scotland and ScotlandsPeople. 6th Ed. / Edited by Tristram Clarke. ed. Edinburgh: Birlinn : National Records of Scotland, 2011. [Details on NLS](#). (Note, there is now a 7th edition available. You will also find the [free guides on the NRS website](#) have a lot (but not all) of the information. However, the hard copy is useful as we can make notes like Jane.

Gouldesbrough, Peter; Gordon, Donaldson, and Stair Society. Formulary of Old Scots Legal Documents. Edinburgh: Stair Society, 1985. Print. Publications Stair Society v. 36. [Details on NLS](#). This is not for beginners but it's really useful if you are working with old Scottish legal documents.

O'Rourke, Stephen R., and Andrew Dewar Gibb. Glossary of Legal Terms. Sixth ed. 2014. Print. LawBasics. [Details on NLS](#). Note, for genealogy the 1st edition may be helpful as it includes terms that are no longer used.

Durie, Bruce. Scottish Genealogy. Fourth Edition, Fully Revised and Updated. ed. 2017. [Details on NLS](#).

Smout, T. C. A History of the Scottish People : 1560-1830. London: Fontana, 1985. [Details on NLS](#).

Smout, T. C. A Century of the Scottish People, 1830-1950. London: Fontana, 1987. [Details on NLS](#).

Wilkinson, Kirsty F. Finding Your Scottish Ancestors : Techniques for Solving Genealogy Problems. 2020. [Details on NLS](#).

Simpson, Grant G. Scottish Handwriting, 1150-1650 : An Introduction to the Reading of Documents. New ed. East Linton: Tuckwell, 1998. [Details on NLS](#).

Young, Alex F. The Encyclopaedia of Scottish Executions, 1750 to 1963. Orpington: Eric Dobby, 1998. [Details on the NLS](#).

Hamilton, David. The Healers; a History of Medicine in Scotland. Edinburgh: Mercatpress, 2003. [Details on the NLS](#).

Fenton, Alexander. Scottish Country Life. New Rev. ed. East Linton: Tuckwell, 1999. [Details on the NLS](#).

Carter, Ian. Farm Life in Northeast Scotland 1840-1914 : The Poor Man's Country. Edinburgh: John Donald, 1997. [Details on the NLS](#).

Roulston, William J., and Ulster Historical Foundation. Researching Presbyterian Ancestors in Ireland. 2020. [Details on NLS](#).

Brown, Callum G. Religion and Society in Scotland since 1707. Rev. and Updated New Ed.]. ed. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 1997. [Details on NLS](#).

Scottish Genealogy Society. The Scottish Genealogist. (1954). [Details on NLS](#). Note, as this is a long run of journals, scroll down on the NLS website to see the full run. You can download these for just £1 each from the Scottish Genealogy Society's website [here](#). The society also has a free index (1953-2005) [here](#) which means you can identify a specific issue of interest.

# Scottish Indexes Conference Virtual Family History Fair

## Tay Valley Family History Society

Scottish Charity SC016560

Address: 179-181 Princes Street, Dundee

website: <https://tayvalleyfhs.org.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tayvalleyfhs> email: [tvfhs@tayvalleyfhs.org.uk](mailto:tvfhs@tayvalleyfhs.org.uk)

Tay Valley Family History Society was founded in 1980, as the third Scottish regional FHS, and now has strong worldwide membership. We have a Research Centre and Library at 179-181 Princes Street, Dundee and there extend a welcome to members and visitors. We are open Monday to Friday, and currently also on the first and third Saturdays in the month - check our 'Contact' page at <https://tayvalleyfhs.org.uk/contact/> for opening times and location of the Centre.

TVFHS promotes the study of family history, genealogy and local history throughout the Tay Valley: the former counties of Angus, Fife, Kinross and Perthshire, and the City and Royal Burgh of Dundee. Our journal, The Historian, is issued three times a year, and we run a quarterly series of online Video Talks, followed up by Question and Answer sessions via Zoom for our members.

We have a Facebook page, and a Facebook group for members' discussion, in addition to our online presence through our website. Our AGM, in November 2023, will be held in Dundee's Glasite Hall as a 'hybrid' meeting to enable participation to members outwith Dundee, and this will include a discussion led by our President, Iain Flett (formerly chief archivist at Dundee City Archives) on use of archival material in research. We will participate in Dundee Open Doors on 23rd September 2023.

## Scottish Genealogy Society

**The Scottish Genealogy Society** Situated in the heart of Old Edinburgh, the SGS is the place to come if you are interested in researching your family history in any part of Scotland. Manned by knowledgeable volunteers who can help at all stages of your research, you can be sure of a warm welcome and helpful advice.

Website - <https://www.scotsgenealogy.com/>

Membership - from £20

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ScottishGenealogySociety>



# Shetland Family History Society

Our Coontin Kin journal is free to members 4 times a year and we hold online conferences. Members Area includes Shetland Census including the 1911 and we are nearly at the stage of adding the 1921.

Our next project is adding all the Monumental Inscriptions to our website. See our website for more details.

Membership starts at £12 and more information can be found at:

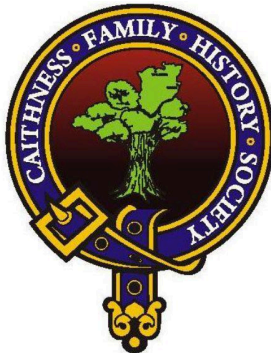
<https://www.shetland-fhs.org.uk/>

[secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk)

Shetland Amenity Trust Garthspool  
Lerwick.  
ZE1 ONY

Open every weekday afternoon from 14.00-16.00.

## Caithness Family Society



Website: [www.caithnessfhs.org.uk](http://www.caithnessfhs.org.uk)

Email: <https://caithnessfhs.org.uk/contacts/>

Facebook: [@caithnessfamilyhistorysociety](https://www.facebook.com/caithnessfamilyhistorysociety)

Caithness Family History Society was formed in September 1999 by a small group of enthusiasts and has already grown to around 250 members worldwide. Our aim is to promote an interest in genealogy and, wherever we can, to help others trace their roots – especially families originating from Caithness.

## Renfrewshire Family History Society

Website: [www.renfrewshirefhs.co.uk](http://www.renfrewshirefhs.co.uk)

Email: [secretary@renfrewshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:secretary@renfrewshirefhs.co.uk)

Renfrewshire Family History Society was founded in March 1999 and has charitable status. It exists to promote the study of family history based on the old County of Renfrewshire encompassing Cathcart, Clarkston, Eaglesham, Eastwood, Mearns, Thornliebank, Giffnock,



[www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com) - Helping you trace your Scottish family tree



Neilston, Barrhead, Uplawmoor, Paisley, Abbey Parish, Renfrew, Erskine, Bishopton, Inchinnan, Houston & Killellan, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch, Kilmacollm, Langbank, Port Glasgow, Greenock, Gourrock, Inverkip and Wemyss Bay.

Membership fees starting at £12 includes:

- Induction pack for new members
- Full syllabus of monthly presentations and workshops (September to May).
- Society Journal published at least twice a year, distributed to members mainly by email
- Access to a small library of books CDs etc for loan
- Assistance with family history research, particularly helpful to overseas members
- Books and CDs written/compiled by members are available for purchase online.

The Society's has not held face-to-face meetings since the arrival of Covid-19 but it is intended to introduce combined physical and virtual meetings during 2023.

The Society has carried out projects involving gravestone transcriptions and indexing of records, some in conjunction with The Mitchell Library Glasgow and "Find My Past". More work of this nature is anticipated in the future.

## Anglo-Scottish Family History Society

Website - [angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk](http://angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk)

The Anglo-Scottish FHS was formed in 1982 by members of the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society (M&LFHS) to assist in tracing their links back to Scottish origins. We have details of baptisms and communion rolls from Presbyterian churches in Manchester from 1802 to 1970 in our members area. More images are included in the DVD from our online shop. We also have a Scottish Marriage index, giving details of Scots who married overseas. This index is freely available to search. We would also welcome any new information that researchers would care to contribute to the index.

## Ardchattan Parish Archive

Website: <http://ardchattan.wikidot.com>

Facebook: [@ardchattan](https://www.facebook.com/ardchattan)

Email: [ardchattan@gmail.com](mailto:ardchattan@gmail.com)

Ardchattan Parish Archive - researching and sharing the built, family, natural and social history of the Parish of Ardchattan from Big Bang to Present day. The area between Loch Etive and Loch Creran : Barcaldine, Benderloch, Connel, Bonawe. Enquiries welcome, we are always interested to connect with descendants and anyone interested in our heritage.

# Anglo-Scottish Family History Society

Website - [angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk](http://angloscots.mlfhs.org.uk)

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## Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society

Website: <https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/>

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

UK (includes a paper Journal) £20.00

Overseas (PDF Journal) £20.00

Overseas (Paper Journal) £25.00

### Membership of the Society includes:

Journal 3 times per year

Use of the Society's Research Centre & Library in Glasgow

Access to unique data sets

Expert research assistance



## Borders Family History Society



Based in Galashiels, Borders Family History Society is run by volunteers who have researched their own family histories. We are here to help you discover your family stories in the Border counties of Berwickshire, Peeblesshire, Roxburghshire and Selkirkshire in southern Scotland. Our main project is recording the Monumental Inscriptions for Borders burial places. In partnership with the Scottish Borders Archive, we are indexing Police and Criminal records and Poor Law records. Our research room is at 52 Overhaugh St, Galashiels, Scotland, TD1 1DP.

Website: [www.bordersfhs.org.uk](http://www.bordersfhs.org.uk)

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BordersFHS>

# Dumfries & Galloway Family History Society



The Dumfries & Galloway Family History Society covers the three counties of South West Scotland – Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtonshire. We were joined at the conference by Terence Brown, volunteer and council member at the Dumfries & Galloway Family History Society, at our August conference. If you missed it you [can watch it here](#).

Website - [www.dgfhs.org.uk](http://www.dgfhs.org.uk)

Membership - from £7.50

# Orkney Family History Society

Orkney Family History Society was formed in 1997 and is run by a committee of volunteers. They have an office (currently closed) adjacent to the archives department in the Orkney Library in Kirkwall. Their volunteers are working from home currently and are happy to assist with any enquiries by email. They have a membership of around 1,700 from all over the world. For an annual subscription (starting at £10) members are given access to a wealth of transcribed records on the society's website [www.orkneyfhs.co.uk](http://www.orkneyfhs.co.uk).

Volunteers have transcribed all census records for Orkney from 1841-1911, most gravestone inscriptions as well as a growing number of birth, marriage and death registrations. These are all indexed and searchable on the website.

Email: [secretary2013@orkneyfhs.co.uk](mailto:secretary2013@orkneyfhs.co.uk)



# East Ayrshire Family History Society

East Ayrshire Family History Society

Scottish Charity number SC029609

Website: [www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk](http://www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk)

Email: [enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk)

The former county of Ayrshire is now divided into three local authority areas. We are best able to help members with connections to East Ayrshire but we have access to census and other records for all parishes in Ayrshire and can often assist with enquiries about these other areas.

Volunteers do their best to help members with their research and to direct non-members to sources of information. Members receive three magazines per year and can view digital copies of all back numbers.

Meetings are held in Kilmarnock most weeks and there is a speaker once a month. Visitors are welcome but should email in advance to check details.

Please see our website for information about membership, meetings and publications.

## Lanarkshire Family History Society



Our Research Centre in Motherwell is currently closed because of Covid 19, we will open again when the situation improves. In the meantime we can still assist you with your Scottish and Irish questions and any 'brickwalls' you have at present. Our Research Coordinator, John Kennedy and his 'team' of researchers can be contacted by E-mail at:

[research-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:research-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk)

For questions of a military nature you can contact David Anderson by email at: -

[military-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:military-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk)

One of our members, Clare Wilson, has produced a short Video tour of our Centre and the many facilities we have in the Centre. Including over 1,800 books (Family, Local and Military History) in our Reference Library. The Video can be viewed on YouTube, here is the link: -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMQC1kir9LQ&t=0s>

## Moray & Nairn Family History Society



Moray & Nairn Family History Society was established in February 2009, for people researching their ancestry in these old counties.

Website - [www.morayandnairnfhs.co.uk](http://www.morayandnairnfhs.co.uk)

Contact can be made through the website, or by email to:

[enquiries@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk)

# Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society



Website: [www.anesfhs.org.uk](http://www.anesfhs.org.uk)

Facebook: [@anesfhs](https://www.facebook.com/anesfhs)

Twitter: [@anesfhs](https://twitter.com/anesfhs)

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society (ANESFHS) covers the old counties of Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire, Banffshire and Moray in Scotland's North-East corner. We also hold records for all of Scotland and wherever else Scots and their descendants can be found.

The Society's research premises in Aberdeen has reopened, containing a huge range of resources, including subscriptions to paid websites, plus journals from other family-history societies worldwide. We stock many publications for sale.

Regular meetings, covering many topics of interest to family historians, are held in Aberdeen, Elgin, Glasgow, Edinburgh, London, Brisbane, Melbourne and Southern Ontario. Meetings currently take place online, and anyone is welcome to request an invitation.

## Fife Family History Society



Website: [www.fifefhs.org](http://www.fifefhs.org)

Facebook: [@FifeFamilyHistorySociety](https://www.facebook.com/FifeFamilyHistorySociety)

Twitter: [@fifefhs](https://twitter.com/fifefhs)

Fife FHS was established in 1989 and is a charity registered in Scotland. Our members are from all over the World. In normal times we have an Archive Room based in Cupar Library, Fife, where our team of volunteers are available to help people with their Fife family history three days a week.

We have recently revamped our website [www.fifefhs.org](http://www.fifefhs.org) and as well as an extensive members area including a Record Archive, Journal Archive, Members Forum and free access to the Pre 1855 Fife

Death Index (over 250,000 deaths) we have an online shop [www.fifefhs.org/shop/](http://www.fifefhs.org/shop/) There are 25 digital publications available to purchase as downloads. These include pre 1855 Baptisms from non establishment churches, Monumental Inscriptions and our Fife Shopkeepers and Traders Directory 1820-1870.

# Central Scotland Family History Society



Website: [www.csfhs.org.uk](http://www.csfhs.org.uk)

The Central Scotland Family History Society covers the old counties of Clackmannanshire, Stirlingshire and West Perthshire, plus the parishes of Bo'ness and Carriden in West Lothian.

Meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Wednesday from October to May. For the 2022 – 2023 session, we are trying out a mix of meetings - four in-person afternoon meetings and four evening meetings on Zoom from December to March.

There is a monthly “drop-in” Session at St Ninian’s Library in Stirling, when we introduce the fascination of genealogy to new researchers starting out on their journey, and offer advice to anyone suffering from ‘brick wall’ syndrome.

We produce a Journal twice a year, and since lockdown the committee has introduced a monthly newsletter, ‘Share your Story’, to keep members feeling connected to the Society.

We have a full list of our own publications, many of which are now available as pdf downloads – see our website for details of price and ordering.



## British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO)

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) BIFHSGO is the leading Canadian family history society with a focus on the British Isles.

Our members connect with like-minded researchers to learn effective, trusted research methods and best practices, to share their knowledge, and to inspire other family historians with our presentations and publications. Our quarterly journal, *Anglo-Celtic Roots*, is filled with stories written by our members and provides excellent examples for others researching and writing their own family histories.

BIFHSGO has a Name Index which provides information from our ongoing research on home children, military ancestors, and migration, focusing on British Isles and Canadian ancestry.

Our monthly meetings can be attended in person or online. They are recorded and can be accessed by members following the meeting date. We always welcome visitors and new members.

To make inquiries or to register for any of our upcoming meetings, please visit our website at <https://www.bifhsgo.ca>.