


Scottish Indexes Conference



Learn how to trace your Scottish
family history 

www.scottishindexes.com



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Scottish Indexes Conference XV

15 January 2022

I don't know about you but we felt like the day flew by! We really enjoyed listening to the excellent presentations and of course your questions that sparked some great discussions.

One thing that became clear is the vast volume of documents preserved in archives that may hold the key piece of information we need to overcome our brick wall.

I don't know about you but I had never considered looking at records of public baths to help me trace my family tree! There are always new tips to pick up. I hope you can all join us on Saturday 12 March for our next conference. [Click here to book.](#)

In the pages that follow are links, hints and tips that were shared during the conference. Hope they help.

Graham & Emma Maxwell

Genealogists at www.scottishindexes.com



‘Exploring the Collections of Edinburgh City Archives’

by Ashleigh Thompson

Website: www.edinburgh.gov.uk

Facebook: [@Edinburgh-City-Archives](https://www.facebook.com/Edinburgh-City-Archives)

Instagram: [@edinburghcityarchives](https://www.instagram.com/edinburghcityarchives)

Edinburgh City Archives (ECA) is the archive service for the City of Edinburgh Council, and for Edinburgh itself. ECA holds the records of the Council, and records relating to the Edinburgh area. These records can be created by clubs, societies, individuals, businesses, and organisations, or by council employees and committees. Therefore, the records held by ECA are incredibly diverse. These records span from the 12th century to the present day. Ashleigh, Records and Archives Officer, explored the types of records and collections held by Edinburgh City Archives and highlighted some of the many treasures along the way!

Ashleigh has worked and volunteered within various archive services for over ten years. She is a History graduate from the University of Stirling. During her undergraduate degree, an interest in gender history was sparked and this led her to undertake a masters degree focusing upon political expression amongst women. It was during this research that Ashleigh decided to ultimately pursue a career in archives, having been fascinated by her trips to archives and the role of the archivists within them. She graduated from the University of Dundee in 2019 with a Masters in Archives and Records Management.

Ashleigh has been in her current role as Records and Archives Officer at the City of Edinburgh Council for five years and is part of a small team responsible for both archives and records management. This is a diverse role and includes managing a public search room, undertaking research, responding to enquiries, providing training and guidance on the care of current and historic records, outreach, and managing various projects. Ashleigh’s favourite thing about being part of the team at Edinburgh City Archives is the sheer diversity of the collections and this is something that she enjoys speaking about. You can learn more about Edinburgh City Archives by following them on Facebook and Instagram.



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F A M I L Y

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‘Managing Archives’

by George MacKenzie

Useful catalogues:

[National Records of Scotland online catalogue](#)

[NRAS online register](#)

[Scottish Archive Network catalogue](#)

[Discovery](#)

As the former Keeper of the Records of Scotland, George MacKenzie was able to offer a glimpse into the world of the archivist both during his presentation and in the discussion that followed. Whilst we would want to keep every scrap of paper, it's simply not always practical and, in fact, could be counter-productive.

George will be joining us again in March to present part two of his research into the Waring of Lennel collection in National Records of Scotland (GD372). His presentation will be entitled ‘One wants you at home to think it's all heroic & splendid’. The title is from the wartime diary of Sally Macnaughtan, novelist and friend of Lady Clementine Waring.

To register for the March 2022 Scottish Indexes Conference, [click here](#).



**'Crofters, Cottars and the Napier Commission'
by Lorna Steele-McGinn**

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'Crofters, Cottars and the Napier Commission'

by Lorna Steele-McGinn

Website: www.highlifehighland.com

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

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

Instagram: [@hlharchives](https://www.instagram.com/hlharchives)

If you missed this presentation, or would just like to watch it again, [a version is available from the Highland Archives Service](#). In fact, you can watch over 90 of Lorna's videos online.

Here is a link to the [Learn with Lorna videos](#).

In her presentation, Lorna referenced the remarkably comprehensive report of the Napier Commission. The Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Condition of Crofters and Cottars in the Highlands and Islands (Napier Commission) - ([available on archive.org](#)) and five volumes of evidence presented to the commission (digitised by the [University of the Highlands & Islands](#)).

You can explore the rich history of the Scottish Highlands and Islands through images, maps, documents, audio and video on the [Am Baile website](#). All of the wonderful images Lorna used in her presentation are available on this website.

[Here is a link to their crofting collection](#). You can see how your ancestors would have lived and worked but you can also listen to interviews with people from crofting townships. There is so much to explore!

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FAMILY

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'Using North Lanarkshire Burgh Records for Family History'
by Wiebke McGhee

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North Lanarkshire Archives
NL Heritage Centre
High Road
Motherwell, ML1 3HU

mcgheewi@northlan.gov.uk
HeritageCentre@northlan.gov.uk
Tel. 01698 274590

Twitter: [NL_Heritage](https://twitter.com/NL_Heritage)
Website: culturenl.co.uk

This talk was an introduction to the records of the North Lanarkshire burghs of Airdrie, Coatbridge, Kilsyth, Motherwell and Wishaw and how they can be used for your family history research.

Wiebke McGhee is the Archivist of North Lanarkshire Archives, based in Motherwell, Scotland. Wiebke graduated with an MA in Mediaeval and Modern History from Trier University, Germany, and has postgraduate degrees in Library and Archives Studies. Previous employment includes Corpus Christi College Library in Oxford and University of Glasgow Archives.

Wiebke has kindly prepared a comprehensive handout to accompany this talk which you can [download here](#).

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‘Finding Uncle Geordie’

by Audrey Collins

Personal Blog: [The Family Recorder](#)

Personal Twitter: [@AudreyCollins23](#)

The National Archives: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Audrey Collins worked as a freelance researcher for 15 years before joining the staff of The National Archives. In 2001 she was engaged by the Office for National Statistics as their official Census historian for the bicentenary census in that year, and also served on the advisory panel for the 1901 census digitisation project.

Audrey is the author of three titles in the ‘Basic Facts’ series of family history guides, co-wrote The Complete Guide to Tracing Your Family History, and has also contributed sections in the Family History Companion, and Census: the Expert Guide. She regularly gives talks at external events and conferences in the UK, Ireland and the USA. Her research interests include: the history and operation of the General Register Office, Civil Registration and the census, Scottish and Irish records in The National Archives, newspapers and periodicals and retail history.

This presentation was related to her own family and is an account of how she was able to find out more about Uncle Geordie. On Audrey’s blog you can read more about this journey. Audrey has also kindly prepared a handout to accompany this presentation which has many useful links. Hopefully, you too can find your ‘lost’ relatives. You can [download the handout here](#).



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'Visualising Your Family History'

by Emma Maxwell

Website: www.scottishindexes.com

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

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

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/scottishindexes>

Emma and her husband Graham are professional genealogists who run www.scottishindexes.com. On their website, you can search Scotland's Criminal Database, the Scottish Paternity Index, the Poor Relief Records Index and more.

For this presentation, Emma has developed a new article for the Scottish Genealogy Learning Zone, '[Visualising Your Family History](#)' where you will find many useful links.

It's exciting not only to be able to visualise our family history but also to be able to share what we have discovered with others. Cathy Parraga, one of the conference attendees, has done just that in her YouTube video, '[Our Roots Episode 1 - Welsh Ancestors](#)'. This may give you some inspiration to share your own story.

Emma shared an account about housing in Lochmaben which you can [read here on archive.org](#). To find out more about the conditions people faced down the mines you can read the [report from the commission here](#).

[Here is a link to Thomas Annan's photographs of Glasgow](#) which were featured in the presentation.



Booking is now open for our March 2022 conference: [click here to book](https://www.scottishindexes.com).

Looking ahead to March, we will be joined by John Pelan, Director of the Scottish Council on Archives (SCA). John will talk about the development of a new resource for archivists and users of archives, Your Scottish Archives. SCA plans to launch the first stage of the project in late 2022.

Your Scottish Archives is a unique project to gather and make available worldwide, through a dynamic online portal, catalogue descriptions from archives across Scotland, including local authority, health, business and community records. The infrastructure for the project is being provided by the SCA, working with Jisc/Archives Hub. It will build capacity amongst archive holders and develop skills, particularly amongst local communities, making an enormous contribution to the wider heritage sector by improving access to Scotland's archives. The portal will also provide useful knowledge, guides and resources for anyone seeking to search and access Scotland's rich documented record.

Kate Keter, genealogist at familytreetales.co.uk will join us to present, 'Breach of Promise of Marriage cases'.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and the homepage of our website for more speaker announcements in the coming weeks.



Making Sense of the Scottish Census

Booking is now open for the 2022 Scottish Family History Month. This year's chair is genealogist Chris Paton, who will host each talk and also present a talk of his own. Each event will comprise a 50-min Zoom talk, followed by a 30 minute Q&A. Each event will be recorded and the recording made available to ticket holders for 7 days.

Emma's presentation will give you an insight into the Scottish census and she will share some money-saving tips which are especially helpful when searching the 1911 Scottish census. Emma will also look ahead to what we can expect with the release of the 1921 Scottish census. She has been searching the census long before it went online and her early searches in the General Register Office for Scotland involved spending hours searching through the census on microfilm.

[Book on Zoom here](#) - cost £10

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[Find out more](#)

Q&A and Submitted links

Thanks to Ali and Kate for joining us for the Q&A sessions as well as our other panellists. There were 326 questions asked during the day and I think we managed to get to just about all of them!

Kate has been researching family trees for over 30 years and now works as a professional genealogist based in Linlithgow. She has an MSc in Genealogical, Palaeographical and Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow where she is now a tutor on the Genealogy and Family History Research courses. Kate is an accredited member of the Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA).

Here is a link to Kate's website: familytreetales.co.uk

Ali Murray has been a professional researcher for over 20 years and in the last 16 years have been undertaking family history research. Ali is also the Chairman of Fife Family History Society Ali took part in an episode of the BBC television programme WDYT YA with celebrity Anne Reid back in 2014.

Here is a link to Ali's website where you can find out more about her: www.scotsgenie.co.uk

[Bell's Dictionary and Digest of the Law of Scotland](#)

Dr Aaron Allen's paper on '[Finding the Builders: Sources Lost and Extant for Edinburgh's Incorporation of Mary's Chapel](#)'

Learning Zone - [Sasines - Scottish Property Records](#)

Index to names in the [Napier Commission](#)

North Lanarkshire Poor Law applications and registers 1849 to 1917 are on [Ancestry](#)

List of all [burial grounds in Scotland](#)

North Lanarkshire images on [Flickr](#)

The Watercolour World is a fascinating resource eg <https://www.watercolourworld.org/painting/town-paisley-tww0099c8>

[Waulking Song Group](#)

Scottish Indexes Conference Virtual Family History Fair

The Scottish Association of Family History Societies

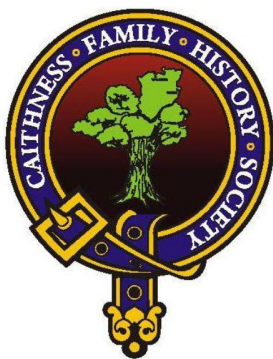


SAFHS Conference Saturday 9 April 2022

safhs.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number SC029006

We're looking forward to helping our friends at SAFHS with their conference in April. It's always a popular event but having it online has opened it up to an even wider audience. [Book now on Zoom](#) and you will receive a reminder nearer the time.



Caithness Family Society

Website: 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.

Anglo-Scottish Family History Society

Website - 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

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

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Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society

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

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

Membership: £15

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

Scottish Genealogy Society



The Scottish Genealogy Society is based in Edinburgh but can help you with your research all over Scotland. Many of these resources are available to members and non-members but membership also comes with a lot of benefits.

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

Membership - from £20

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

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

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

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.

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



East Ayrshire Family History Society

East Ayrshire Family History Society

Scottish Charity number SC029629

Website: www.eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

Email: enquiries@eastayrshirefhs.co.uk

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

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

Contact can be made through the website, or by email to: enquiries@morayandnairnfhs.co.uk

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland Family History Society



Website: 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

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 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/ 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



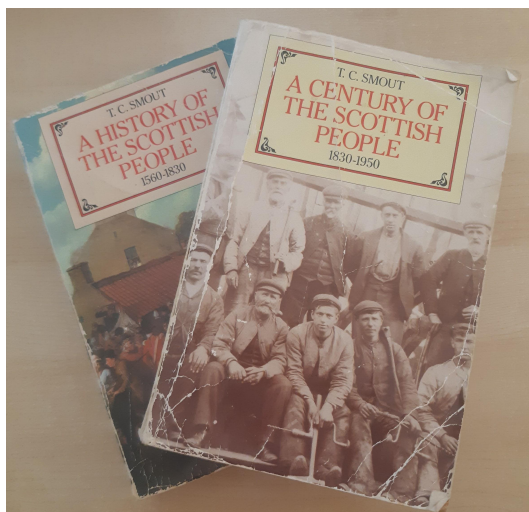
Website: www.csfhs.org.uk

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.

We organise monthly meetings from October to May, held in the Smith Museum in Stirling. Due to Covid-19 we had to postpone our AGM. This will now be held as a virtual meeting in September. As our meeting venue is not opening its lecture theatre until at least 2021, next year's programme of talks has also been suspended.

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 – see our website for details of price and ordering.

Scottish Family History Reading List



An attendee suggested a reading list which we thought was a great idea. Thanks to our presenters and attendees for suggesting these books. I should add that none of these are sponsored; these are genuine recommendations from fellow researchers. It is also not an extensive list, I am sure we will add more as time goes on.

Paton, Chris (2019) Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors Through Church and State Records: [Pen & Sword](#)

Paton, Chris (2020) Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet: [Pen & Sword](#)

National Records of Scotland (2020) Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors: [Birlinn](#)

Simpson, Grant G (1998) Scottish Handwriting 1150-1650. Tuckwell Press.

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

Bigwood, Rosemary (2006) The Scottish Family Tree Detective. Manchester: Manchester University Press

Brown, Callum G. (1997) Religion and Society in Scotland since 1707. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Gibb, Andrew Dewar (1946) Student's Glossary of Scottish Legal Terms. Edinburgh: W. Green & Son Ltd (Various later editions also)

Smout, T. C. (1998) A History of the Scottish People 1560-1830. London: Fontana Press

Smout, T. C. (1997) A Century of the Scottish People 1830-1950. London: Fontana Press

Steel, D. J. (1970) National Index of Parish Registers Volume XII: Sources for Scottish Genealogy and Family History. Chichester: Phillimore and Co. Ltd.

Wightman, Andy (2013) The Poor Had No Lawyers – Who Owns Scotland (And How They Got It), New Ed. Edinburgh: Birlinn Ltd.



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