


# Scottish Indexes Conference



Learn how to trace your Scottish  
family history 

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



## Quick Links

['The Archives of the National Trust for Scotland'](#) by Ian Riches

['On the Boll: agricultural and landholding terminology in Scottish records'](#) by Robert Urquhart

['Historic Scotland in the archives: Using Historic Environment Scotland Archives to explore historic sites around Scotland'](#) by Joseph Waterfield

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## Scottish Indexes Conference XXVI

Saturday 23 November 2024

We hope you enjoyed the day yesterday and have been inspired to dive deeper into family history. We do hit brick walls and it can be hard to read some records but it's so satisfying when we overcome these challenges and can trace our family history back another generation.

In this handout, you will find information about each of the presenters with links to their websites. We also have the section 'Scottish Genealogy Q&A session links and reading list'. This is a compilation of the websites suggested in the chat yesterday. The reading list has been growing over the last few years and is taken from suggestions made by previous presenters and attendees.

Please register for our next conference [here](#), it will be held on Saturday 18 January 2025.

Graham & Emma Maxwell

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

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'The Archives of the  
National Trust for Scotland'  
by Ian Riches

## 'The Archives of the National Trust for Scotland'

by Ian Riches

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

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

Ian has been the archivist for the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) for over 20 years. The majority of his time has been spent appraising, cataloguing, re-boxing and facilitating access to the NTS corporate archive as well as the collections of historic papers relating to NTS properties and the families associated with them. He has also dealt with numbers of enquiries from researchers from both within and outwith the Trust, on average 500 per year.

In this presentation, Ian showed us how the NTS came into being by showing some of our founding documents from our corporate archive and then introducing other examples from their institutional collection. Ian looked at some examples from some of our historic property archive collections – manuscripts, diaries, photos etc.

Plan your visit to a property in the care of NTS: <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places>.

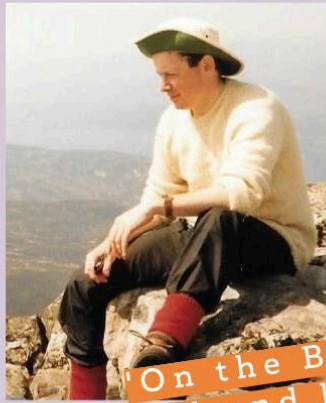
Read The St Kilda Diaries: 1 to 14 April 1909:  
<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/the-st-kilda-diaries-1-to-14-april>.

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**'On the Boll:  
agricultural and landholding  
terminology in Scottish records'  
by Robert Urquhart**

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

## 'On the Boll: agricultural and landholding terminology in Scottish records'

by Robert Urquhart

Abbotshall Palaeography: [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.

Bibliography on Scottish agricultural produce, renting and landholding

### **Agricultural livestock, crops and weights and measures**

Dictionaries of the Scots Language - <https://dsl.ac.uk/>

The Concise Scots Dictionary (various editions) has a useful short guide to standard measures near the back of the volume.

Scottish Archive Network website guide to weights and measures - <https://www.scan.org.uk/measures/index.asp>.

Older English dictionaries are useful, where the words are not specifically Scots, for example the Imperial Dictionary of the English Language (New edition, 1901)

There is an extensive bibliography on Scottish weights and measures. For those who want a detailed discussion of the development of Scottish weights and measures there's R. D. Connor, A. D. C. Simpson and A. D. Morrison-Low, *Weights and Measures in Scotland: a European perspective* (2004). Shorter treatments and useful guides are:

- R. E. Zupco, 'The Weights and Measures of Scotland Before the Union' in *Scottish Historical Review*, 56 (1977), 119-145;
- D. Richard Torrance, *Weights and Measures* (1996) – aimed primarily at family historians;
- D. C. Simpson, 'Interpreting Scots measurement terms: a cautionary tale', in Christian J. Kay and Margaret Mackay (editors), *Perspectives on the Older Scottish Tongue* (2005).

For a recent thought-provoking book on the connection between measurement and social control there's James Vincent, *Beyond Measure: the hidden history of measurement* (2022).

### **Scottish Weights and Measures: Dry Capacity**

The basic unit of dry capacity was the boll. Depending what was being measured (oats, wheat, peas etc) one boll was the equivalent of about 140-220 litres. For more historical background and information about subdivisions and imperial/metric equivalents see the SCAN weights and measures guide: <https://www.scan.org.uk/measures/index.asp>.

### **Historical background to Scottish early-modern agriculture and rural life**

- Ian D. Whyte, *Agriculture and society in seventeenth-century Scotland* (1979)
- Margaret H B Sanderson, *Scottish Rural Society in the Sixteenth Century* (1982)
- T. C. Smout, *A History of the Scottish People 1560-1830* (1972) – available on the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/historyofscottis0000smou>.

### **On the seizure of the property and income of the Church, including teinds:**

- *The Books of Assumption of the Thirds of Benefices: Scottish Ecclesiastical Rentals at the Reformation*, edited by James Kirk (1995)
- Andy Wightman, *The Poor Had No Lawyers* (2015) – on the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/poorhadnolawyers0000wigh>.

### **Palaeography guides and formularies**

Testaments tutorial on the Scottish Handwriting website (now on ScotlandsPeople) - <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/scottish-handwriting/tutorials/testaments-tutorial>

Grant G Simpson, *Scottish Handwriting 1150-1650* (Edinburgh, 1973).

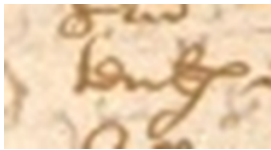
SRA handwriting self-help pack – free to download at

<https://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/publications> or can be purchased in hard copy at <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/shop/scottish-handwriting-kit>.

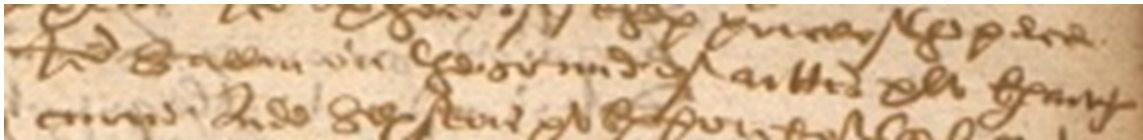
Peter Gouldesbrough (editor), Formulary of Old Scots Legal Documents (Stair Society, Edinburgh, 1985).

Examples of words and phrases in records

The symbol for 'bolls' can be very difficult to spot, especially written immediately after or before numbers or crop names, in things like testament inventories, rentals, tacks and deeds. If you are fairly sure it is going to appear (and most crops were vauled per boll), it



ten b[ollis]



Ite[m] sawin in the ground of aittis xlv b[ollis] aittis

### **Example of crops, livestock and rent payments in a testament inventory for a tenant farmer (William Dryisdail in Schirdaill, 1600)**

#### **Transcription**

*In the first the said vmq[uhil]le w[illi]a[m] dryisdail in schirdaill had the guid[is] geir sowmes of mo[ne]y and dettis of the awaill & pr[ic]es eft[ir]following p[er]ten[in]g to him the tyme of his deceis foirsaid viz~*

*JTem four oxin price of the pece o[u]rheid xvj li~ Su[mm]a LXiiij li~ JTem tua [y]oung oxin price of the pece o[u]rheid xx m[er]k[is] Su[mm]a xl m[er]k[is] JTem mair thrie stottis of tua [y]eir auld[is] price of the pece o[u]rheid vij li~ Su[mm]a xxj li~ JTem sex ky w[i]t[h] th[e]ir followaris price of the pece o[u]rheid w[i]t[h] the followar xij li~ Su[mm]a lxxij li~ JTem tua quoyis of tua [y]eir auld[is] price of the pece o[u]rheid xxiiij li~ Su[mm]a xlviiij li~ JTem xxvij [y]owis & [y]oung scheipe price of the pece o[u]rheid xl sh~ Su[mm]a Liiij li~ JTem in the barne & barne[y]aird Lx boll[is] of aittis price of the boll w[i]t[h] the fodder v li~ Su[mm]a iij c li~ JTe[m] mair aucht boll[is] of beir price of the boll w[i]t[h] the fodder vj li~ Su[mm]a xlviiij li~ JTem in vtencilis & domicilis w[i]t[h] the abulzeme[nt]is of his bodie estimate to xiiij li~ mo[ne]y*

*Followis the dettis awin be the deid*

*JTem to my lord argyle his m[aste]r for his [y]eir[is] maill resten in a[n]no foirsaid ix li~ vj s~ viij d~ JTem to petir horne sh[e]ruand for his fie in a[n]no foirsaid iij li~ vj s~ viij d~ JTem to Johne dryisdail sh[e]ruand of fie in a[n]no foirsaid xx s~ /*

*Su[mm]a of the dettis awin be the deid ----- xiiij li~ xiiij s~ iij d~*

#### **In modern English**

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

Firstly, the said deceased William Dryisdail in Schirdaill had the movable estate, sums of money and debts, of the value and prices hereafter, belonging to him at the time of his death, viz:

- four oxen, at 16 pounds per head, total 64 pounds
- two young oxen, at 20 merks per head, total 40 merks
- also, three 2-year old bullocks, at 7 pounds per head, total 21 pounds
- six cows, with calves, at 12 pounds per heqad, total 72 pounds
- two 2-year old heffers, at 24 pounds per head, total 48 pounds
- twentysix ewes and young sheep, at 40 shillings per head, total 54 pounds
- in the barn and barnyard, 60 bolls of oats, at 5 pounds per boll (including the fodder – the parts other than the grain), total 300 pounds
- also there, eight bolls of barley, at 6 pounds per boll (including the fodder), total 48 pounds
- equipment/tools (vtencilis) and household movables (domicilis), with the body clothes and bodily possessions of the deceased, estimated at 14 pounds.

Debts owed by the deceased

- to his landlord, Lord Argyll, for his rent owing for the year ending harvest 1600, 9 pounds 6 shillings 8 pence
- to Petir Horne, servant, for his fee for the year ending harvest 1600, 20 shillings

Total of the debts owed by the deceased – 14 pounds 13 shillings 4 pence.

**Testament inventory phrasing for crop valuation while the crops are still in the field:**

*sawin threttie boll[is] eattis estimat to the third corne Jnde four scoir ten boll[is] pryce of the boll iij lib~ Jnde ij c iij xx x lib~*

*[30 bolls oats sown, x 3 = 90 bolls @ £3 per boll = £270]*

*sawin sex boll[is] tua firlat[is] beir at the four corne Jnde tuentie sex boll[is] pryce of the boll vj lib~ Jnde j c~ lvj lib~*

*[6 bolls and 2 firlots barley sown, x 4 = 26 bolls @ £6 per boll = £156]*



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Historic Scotland in the archives:  
Using Historic Environment  
Scotland Archives to explore  
historic sites around Scotland  
by Joseph Waterfield

## 'Historic Scotland in the archives: Using Historic Environment Scotland Archives to explore historic sites around Scotland'

by Joseph Waterfield

CANMORE - <https://canmore.org.uk>

SCRAN - <https://www.scran.ac.uk/>

Britain From Above - <https://britainfromabove.org.uk/>

NCAP - <https://ncap.org.uk/>

HES website - <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/>

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

Joe studied History at the University of Glasgow, and now works in the Archives department of Historic Environment Scotland (HES). In his day to day work he helps people to access images from the HES Archives. He works with a large variety of material, including Edwardian photograph albums, rolls of architectural drawings, archaeological notebooks, and more! Recent work includes an exhibition about Sir Walter Scott for Scott's 250th anniversary, and an illustrated talk about Samuel Johnson and James Boswell's 1773 tour of Scotland, which he has delivered in a variety of locations on his own tour of Scotland - and beyond!

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) cares for hundreds of historic sites across Scotland, including castles, cathedrals, stone circles, and more. HES also holds an archive containing millions of drawings, photographs, and books related to Scotland's historic buildings and ancient sites. In this talk, Joe used HES Archive images to explore historic sites from around Scotland.



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FAMILY

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'Town and Gown - St Andrews  
University Archive'  
by Sarah Rodriguez

www.scottishindexes.com

## 'Town and Gown– St Andrews University Archive' by Sarah Rodriguez

Website: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/library/special-collections/archives/>

St Andrews University Archive catalogue and place for digitised content:  
<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/collections/>.

The biographical register for students: <https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/biographical-register/>.

Sarah Rodriguez is Muniments Archivist for the University of St Andrews. She has worked with archives for nearly 16 years, in a number of different roles in both University and local authority archives.

Founded in the 15th century, St Andrews is Scotland's first university and the third oldest in the English-speaking world. The University's archive collection has a wealth of information about the students and staff who studied and worked in the Fife-shire town over the centuries.

St Andrews University Collections also cares for archives relating to the East Fife area, including the Kirk Session and Burgh records.

The presentation took us through some of the University's archive that covers both the history of the University and the local area and the people that have lived and studied in the small town by the sea.





## ‘Housing the Miners’

by Kay Williams

The Past and other Places: <https://thepastandotherplaces.wordpress.com>



[@pastandotherplaces.bsky.social](https://twitter.com/pastandotherplaces)

Links and resources for this talk:

<https://thepastandotherplaces.wordpress.com/housing-the-miners/>

Kay Williams became interested in her family tree as a teenager through her grandparents who helpfully provided details. She first visited Edinburgh’s New Register House in the days of paper indexes and transcribed information from the registers. As a student, Kay studied history and geography at St Andrews and researched housing as a postgraduate. Having returned to historical research in retirement, she very occasionally posts a blog. Her great x2 grandfather was a coal miner.

Unlike most other industrial workers, a miner’s employer was also likely to have been the landlord. The location of coal mining was determined by a combination of geology and technology and miners’ homes needed to be near their place of work. Many mining communities were isolated villages of basic rows of houses with few amenities, but this is not the whole story.

“In all the coalfields there is a well-marked difference between the oldest houses and the newest, between the worst and the best. But there are also great differences between the different coalfields.”  
Ballantyne Royal Commission on Housing (1917) [Cd 8731] Chapter XIV, para. 870, p 126.

This talk was a trip through time and space from west to east, from Ardeer on the Ayrshire coast in the mid-nineteenth century across the industrial heartlands of Lanarkshire in the central belt to mining villages in the Lothians in the 1920s. Along the way we will look at time slices for selected census years and explore the differences.

Source material will include evidence given to the Ballantyne housing commission (1913-15), census examples (1861-1921), medical officers’ reports, valuation rolls, house plans, maps, photographs, contemporary newspapers, museum exhibits and published local and oral histories.



## 'Using the Internet & PRONI for Northern Irish research'

by Chris Paton

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

Blog: <https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/>



[@chrimpaton.bsky.social](#)

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 at <https://scottishgenes.blogspot.com>. 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, author of Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet (Second Edition), Tracing Your Irish Ancestors Through Land Records and Tracing Your Belfast Ancestors, explored how to access records for family history research available from his native Northern Ireland – whether they exist online, or at [PRONI](#), Northern Ireland's dedicated national archive in Belfast. He'll explore the many resources available online, from vital records to land based research, what can be prepared for prior to a visit to the PRONI archive, and how to carry out research whilst there.

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**'Beyond ScotlandsPeople:  
Breaking Down Brick Walls in  
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## 'Beyond ScotlandsPeople: Breaking Down Brick Walls in Scottish Research'

by Alison Spring

The Frugal Family Historian Blog: <https://scotsancestors.blogspot.com/>

Scottish Ancestral Research: <https://scotsancestors.weebly.com/>

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



[@acspring.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/acspring.bsky.social)

Alison Spring is a professional genealogist, speaker, and writer specialising in the records of Scotland. With over 40 years' experience of family history research, she has a Masters Degree in Family & Local History from the University of Dundee and is a member of the Register of Qualified Genealogists. Based near Glasgow, she is passionate about tracing your family tree on a budget and blogs as the "Frugal Family Historian". She also writes for the UK's "Family Tree" magazine, and has delivered presentations for the Virtual Genealogical Association, RootsTech, Family Tree Live, and The Genealogy Show.

In this presentation, we learnt how to use substitute records to overcome barriers commonly encountered in Scottish genealogical research - for instance, lack of official records, difficulty in reading handwriting, or unfamiliar language.

Alison has kindly prepared a handout which is available [here](#).

### Online Poor Law Records

Glasgow Libraries provide a research guide to the post-1845 Poor Law and its records: <https://www.glasgowfamilyhistory.org.uk/ExploreRecords/Pages/Poor-Law.aspx>.

The majority of original poor law records for this time period are held by local archives throughout Scotland. Some indexes to these are available online and can help you determine if there is material relevant to your research housed in a particular archive. A selection of these is listed below.

### **Online Collections**

Scotland – Some areas may be available via FamilySearch.org

<https://www.familysearch.org/>. Use their catalogue to carry out a keyword search using a parish name and the phrase “poor law” or “poor relief”.

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire – Details of what Aberdeen archives hold, as well as background information and suggestions for searching poor law records. There are some indexes listed, including a database held by Aberdeen & North East Scotland Family History Society.

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/aberdeen-city-and-aberdeenshire-archives/catalogues-and-indexes/poor-relief-records>

Borders – Search or browse a record index for 1845-1933 records

<http://bordersfhs.org.uk/BFHSPoorLawsearchform.asp>.

Dundee – Friends of Dundee City Archives’ database covers two poorhouses from 1854 to 1878: [http://fdca.org.uk/Dundee\\_Poorhouse\\_Records.html](http://fdca.org.uk/Dundee_Poorhouse_Records.html).

Moray – A database of many different types of Moray records includes poor relief entries for the county and the former Banffshire area. Start with a people search at

<http://libindx.moray.gov.uk/mainmenu.asp>.

Paisley – Covering Paisley and its associated Abbey parish from 1839 to 1948 is this downloadable index

<https://libcat.renfrewshire.gov.uk/iguana/uploads/file/Website%20version%202019.pdf>

Stirling – Online indexes for various parishes in the county, plus some images of the kind of records you will find in their archives:

<http://www.stirlingarchives.scot/poor-relief-indexes/?LMCL=toWP1E&LMCL=r0NII> .

Scottish Indexes – Wigtownshire, Drumelzier (Peeblesshire) & Castleton (Roxburghshire):

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

FindMyPast – Many northern Scottish counties as well as East Lothian, Ayrshire and Renfrewshire have transcribed records here:

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/scotland-poor-law-and-poor-lists>.

Ancestry – As well as North Lanarkshire’s database of poor relief application

(<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/ai/collections/UK/UKNorthLanarkshireArchives>), Ancestry has images of Kirkcaldy’s Abden poorhouse records. Locate this collection in the Ancestry Card Catalogue under ‘Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland, Poorhouse Records, 1888-1922’.



## Q&A and Submitted Links

### Websites suggested in the chat:

Useful guide to measures etc - <https://www.scan.org.uk/measures/capacity.asp>

Historic Environment Scotland Archives Talks Playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjP3TtHXSFwN334mxrTXETzgBeQJbgX->

Dovecot on Fetteresso Estate: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/121357/fetteresso-castle-dovecot>

St Andrews University Archive catalogue and place for digitised content:

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/collections/>

National Coal Mining Museum has a good guide to tracing your Coalmining Ancestors:

<https://www.nationalminingmuseum.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Tracing-Family-History.pdf>

The Bairds of Gartsherrie is a complete area research on its own:

<https://www.culturenlmuseums.co.uk/story/the-bairds-of-gartsherrie/>

West Lothian's Shale Trail: <https://shaletrail.co.uk>

Scottish Shale: <https://www.scottishshale.co.uk/>

On 'mail lands', this is likely to be four pieces of land which are tenanted - see DSL entry at

[https://www.dsl.ac.uk/entry/dost/maill\\_land](https://www.dsl.ac.uk/entry/dost/maill_land)

India papers at NLS: <https://www.nls.uk/collections/official-publications/india-papers/>



Auchentibber: <https://blantyreproject.com>

Fort George: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/14317/fort-george?display=collection>

Greenlaw, County Prison:

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/259406/greenlaw-county-prison?display=image>

St Andrews University Catalogue for collections: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/collections/>

Canmore site record for Inverness Castle / Old Fort George:

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/13447/inverness-castle-wynd-castle-hill-inverness-castle>

Read Me! A self-correcting tool for reading pre-modern handwriting:

<https://straylight.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/readme/exhibits/show/readme>

Early Modern Scottish Palaeography: Reading Scotland's Records:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/ems-palaeography>

Report on the housing of miners in Stirlingshire and Dumbartonshire:

<https://archive.org/details/b21366329/mode/2up>

Mining Landscapes: <https://www.mining-landscapes.org/>

Memory, Mining and Heritage: <https://www.carnpublishing.com/mmh.html>

A Pride of Prydes: <https://lammermoor.org/a-pryde-of-prides/>

Some good interviews recently published in the book:

<https://www.carnpublishing.com/dalryraws.html>

North Lanarkshire Archives:

<https://culturenl.co.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-history/north-lanarkshire-archives/>

1841 Census missing records

[https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/help-and-support/guides/census-returns#1841\\_census\\_missing\\_records](https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/help-and-support/guides/census-returns#1841_census_missing_records)

East Ayrshire Family History Society: <https://eastayrshirefhs.co.uk/>

Carrick History Society: <https://carrickhistory.scot/towns-and-villages/maybole/>

Glasgow and West of Scotland | Glasgow Family History Society: <https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/>

Museum of Lead Mining: <https://www.leadminingmuseum.co.uk/visit/>

Visualising Your Family History <https://www.scottishindexes.com/learningvisual.aspx#q2>

Chris Paton & Mia Bennett down under:

<https://www.gould.com.au/chris-paton-mia-bennett-down-under/>

Births, Marriages and Deaths in Scotland before 1855

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

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

### 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.

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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.

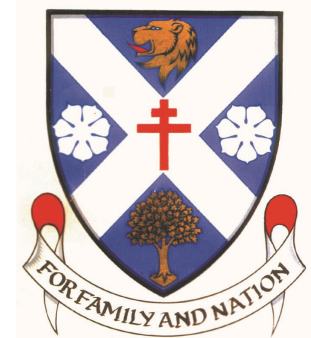
## Scottish Genealogy Society

**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:

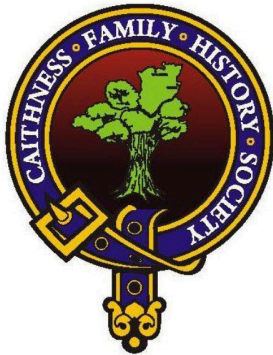
<https://www.shetland-fhs.org.uk/>

[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)

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.

## 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>.