

Scottish Indexes Conference



Learn how to trace your Scottish
family history 

www.scottishindexes.com



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Scottish Indexes Conference XII

4 September 2021

I hope you had as much fun on Saturday as we did! My moment of the conference was when we all agreed that the problem with ships is that they move! It's just possible that the only people who would understand that are family historians who have been looking for their seafaring ancestors in the census.

I have done my best to compile everything we discussed. We also have three additional handouts available on our website. Remember that handouts from past conferences are available, along with the most recent ones, [on our 'conferences' page](#).

We are already excited about our October conference. [Here is the link to register on Zoom](#). Please feel free to share this handout with others, and of course tell them about our next conference.

See you in October!

Graham & Emma Maxwell

Genealogists at www.scottishindexes.com



Scottish Indexes
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SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2021

FAMILY

Learn how to trace your
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Locating Scottish Burial Records

by Emma Maxwell

Website: www.scottishindexes.com

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

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

Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/scottishindexes

Emma Maxwell focused on finding Scottish burial records. Although it's not always necessary to determine where a person was buried to trace your family tree, many people want to know where their ancestors are buried. Once you discover records relating to burials you can often discover more about the family.

From 1855, the three main sources are:

Burial or Interment Registers

Lair Registers (a lair is the Scots term for burial plot)

Gravestones

Interment Registers & Lair Registers

Where possible, it's useful to use the lair register in conjunction with the interment register. Like a gravestone, the lair register groups the family together and can be a great asset to our research.

Most interment and lair registers are held by local authority archives. There are 32 local authorities in Scotland. These can be referred to as local government but generally we would say 'the council'. In some areas they closely follow the boundaries of the historic counties. The Scottish Borders, for example, covers the area formerly known as the counties of Roxburghshire, Peeblesshire, Selkirkshire and Berwickshire.

In other areas, though, the population has grown so much that a lot of changes have taken place. In general, find out which local authority area now covers the area where your ancestors lived and start with the archive in that county.

SAFHS Maintains a database of over 3500 Burial Grounds in Scotland:

<https://www.safhs.org.uk/burialgrounds.php>

GENKUI can also help you locate records which are online:

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct>

Online Records

deceasedonline.com (Aberdeen, Angus)

Ancestry.com (Dumfries & Galloway)

familysearch.org (Glasgow)

Findmypast.com (Clackmannanshire)

Monumental Inscription Transcriptions

Findmypast.com

Family History Societies - www.safhs.org.uk/burialgrounds.php

findagrave.com

deceasedonline.com

The Black Book - www.scotsgenealogy.com

NLS Gravestone inscriptions - www.nls.uk/family-history/gravestones/

Non Church of Scotland Records

Quaker Records - www.scottishindexes.com

Jewish Records - www.jewishgen.org & www.scottishjewishcemeteries.org

Catholic Records – Findmypast & ScotlandsPeople

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An introduction to the National
Records of Scotland's archives
by Tessa Spencer

An introduction to the National Records of Scotland's archives

by Tessa Spencer

Website: nrscotland.gov.uk & scotlandspeople.gov.uk

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

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

The National Records of Scotland (NRS) holds and makes available one of the most varied archive collections of records in Britain. The records span from the 12th to the 21st centuries and touch on virtually every aspect of Scottish life. NRS is responsible for the public and legal records of Scotland but also holds many local and private archives which relate to a variety of subjects, including: the church, law, government and everyday life.

In this talk, Tessa Spencer dipped into the unique treasure trove of Scotland's national archives. She looked at this diverse and rich material, explaining what the records are and how you can access and use them, whether researching online or visiting in person.

This presentation is available to watch [here on our website](#), where you can also download Tessa's handout.

The NRS is hosting an online event on 23 September 2021 'Opening Doors to Edinburgh's New Town's Past' [find out more here](#).

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'From Session to Synod - exploring the Kirk's disciplinary process' by Margaret Fox

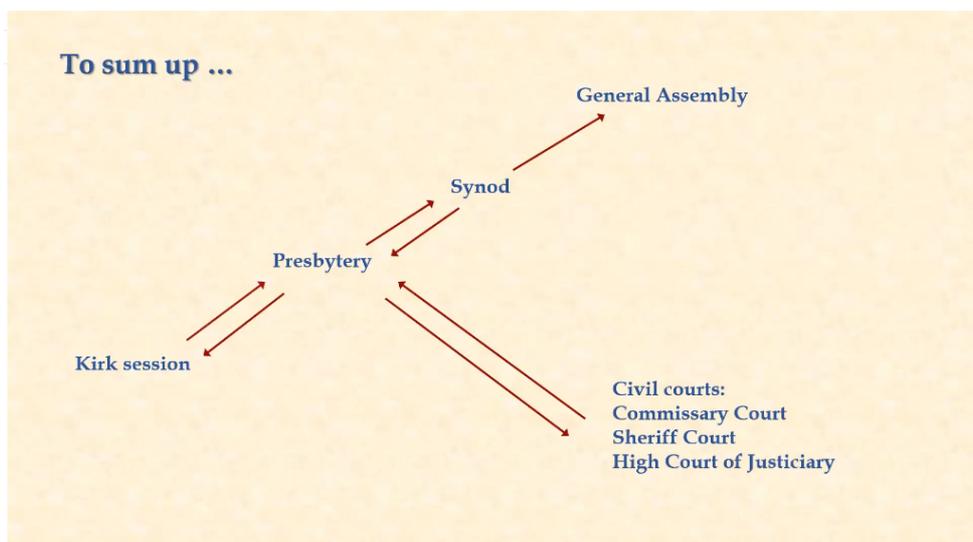
From Session to Synod - exploring the Kirk's disciplinary process

by Margaret Fox

Twitter: [@mf6060](https://twitter.com/mf6060)

As an archivist at the National Records of Scotland Margaret Fox worked on the digitisation project for the records of the Kirk. Margaret worked on this project for three years and is delighted that many of these records are now available on www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk. These are free to search, although you do need an account.

Margaret explained the Kirk's disciplinary system, which is important to understand when we are searching for our ancestors.



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'A Guide To DNA Painter Tools'
by Michelle Leonard

A Guide To DNA Painter Tools

by Michelle Leonard

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

Facebook: [Genes & Genealogy](https://www.facebook.com/Genes&Genealogy)

Email: michelle@genesandgenealogy.co.uk

Michelle Leonard is a professional genealogist, DNA detective, speaker, author, historian and the official genetic genealogist of #AncestryHour. She runs her own genealogy and DNA consultancy business, Genes & Genealogy, and specialises in unknown parentage and all manner of unknown ancestor mysteries using a combination of DNA expertise and conventional research methods. She also undertakes traditional family history research, living relative tracing, historical and television research, podcasts, tutoring, lecturing, bespoke family history books, webinar, speaking engagements and articles, blog and book writing. She is also known for her work on the WW1 Fromelles Genealogy Project, is a regular speaker at major genealogy events and co-authored the book "[Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA: A Guide For Family Historians](#)" published in June 2019. You can find out more about Michelle on her [Genes & Genealogy Facebook page](#) and you can follow her on Twitter.

Michelle has kindly provided a handout to accompany her talk which you can download [here on our website](#).

DNA Bootcamp

Starting on 29 September, Michelle will be tutoring an 8-week DNA Bootcamp hosted by the magazine Family Tree. There is a discount to magazine subscribers, which is greater than the cost of the magazine subscription so look out for that! Find out more [here](#).

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**'Tips on tracing your military
and naval ancestors before
the First World War' by
Audrey Collins**

Tips on tracing your military and naval ancestors before the First World War

by Audrey Collins

Website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Twitter: [@AudreyCollins23](https://twitter.com/AudreyCollins23)

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 has kindly provided a handout to accompany her talk which you can download [here on our website](#).

During the Q&A these resources were also mentioned:

Blog by Paul Nixon - [Army Service Numbers 1881-1918](#)

Glasgow Absent Voters List - www.glasgowfamilyhistory.org.uk

Naval records for genealogists (Public Record Office handbooks) - Book available from various sources online, including Biblio.com.

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'Findmypast & Scottish
Family History Societies
- Working together to
discover ancestors'
by Myko Clelland

Findmypast & Scottish Family History Societies – Working together to discover ancestors

by Myko Clelland

Website: findmypast.co.uk

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

Twitter: [@findmypast](https://twitter.com/findmypast) & [@DapperHistorian](https://twitter.com/DapperHistorian)

Myko Clelland is a genealogist working for Findmypast as their Regional Licensing & Outreach Manager. Most recently Myko has worked with family history societies across Scotland to add even more Scottish records to Findmypast. If you are a member of a Scottish family history who have partnered with Findmypast, you should be able to get a discount on your Findmypast membership, so don't miss out on that.

Myko is a regular presenter on Findmypast's live events. You can watch these on Facebook and YouTube, and many past videos are still available. Here is the [Facebook link](#) and here is the [YouTube link](#).

Remember that Findmypast allows you to search their indexes without a subscription, so if you are still not sure if you need their website, have a browse and see what they have; there's nothing to lose!

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'Using Deeds to Trace Your
Scottish Family History' by
Graham Maxwell

Using Deeds to Trace Your Scottish Family History

by Graham Maxwell

Website: www.scottishindexes.com

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

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

Researching Scots ancestors before civil registration in 1855 can be challenging! Church records are the linchpin of research but what can you do when they run dry? Deeds are an essential but often overlooked resource in Scotland.

Deeds were created by our ancestors for various purposes, they are legal documents which record a wide variety of transactions. Find out more about the Register of Deeds [here in our Learning Zone](#).

One point that was highlighted during the Q&A is that in some countries 'deeds' relate to property records. In Scotland the equivalent property records are called sasines, whereas deeds include a wide variety of legal documents. By the way, sasine is pronounced 'say-zin'. To find out about these records please see our Learning Zone article, '[Sasines - Scottish Property Records](#)'.

Graham has been working on indexing Scottish deeds and you can search some on scottishindexes.com. We hope to add more soon and Graham is working with volunteers to index more exciting records. If you would like to volunteer please [contact us](#).

Scottish Indexes Conference Virtual Family History Fair



SHARING SHETLAND

Free Virtual Conference
27 November 2021

Shetland Family History Society presents:
'Sharing Shetland'
Four presentations
Live Q&A with our expert panel
4 pm to 9 pm UK time
www.shetland-fhs.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number SC020018

Photo Courtesy of Shetland Museum and Archives

We are delighted to be helping our friends at the Shetland Family History Society host their first online conference in November. This is a free event and registration is open; [click here to register](#) and find out more about the event or visit their website www.shetland-fhs.org.uk.

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.



View - Lady Margaret's Tower to Glen Creran

Ardchattan Parish Archive

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

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

Facebook: [@ardchattan](#)

Email: ardchattan@gmail.com

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

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>

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 Wigtownshire. 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:

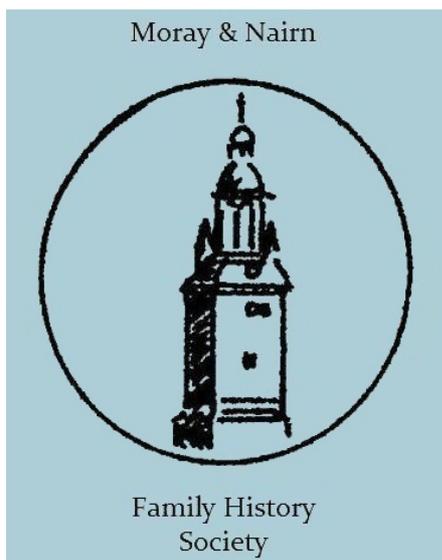
research-lanarkshirefhs@hotmail.co.uk

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.

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SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER 2021



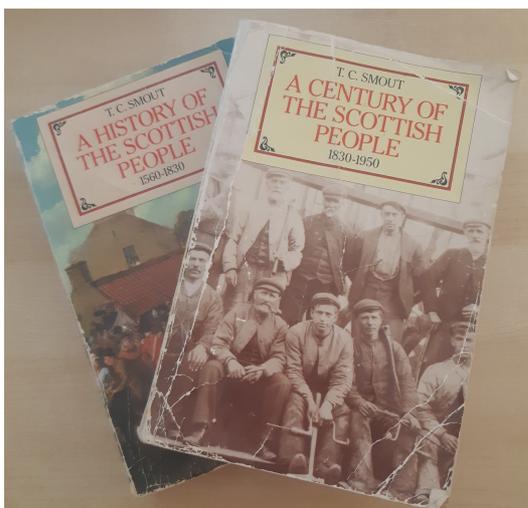
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[Book here on Zoom](#)

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. Let's make a start with these:

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.